

STACK
ANNEX

5

028

472

A

0000978908



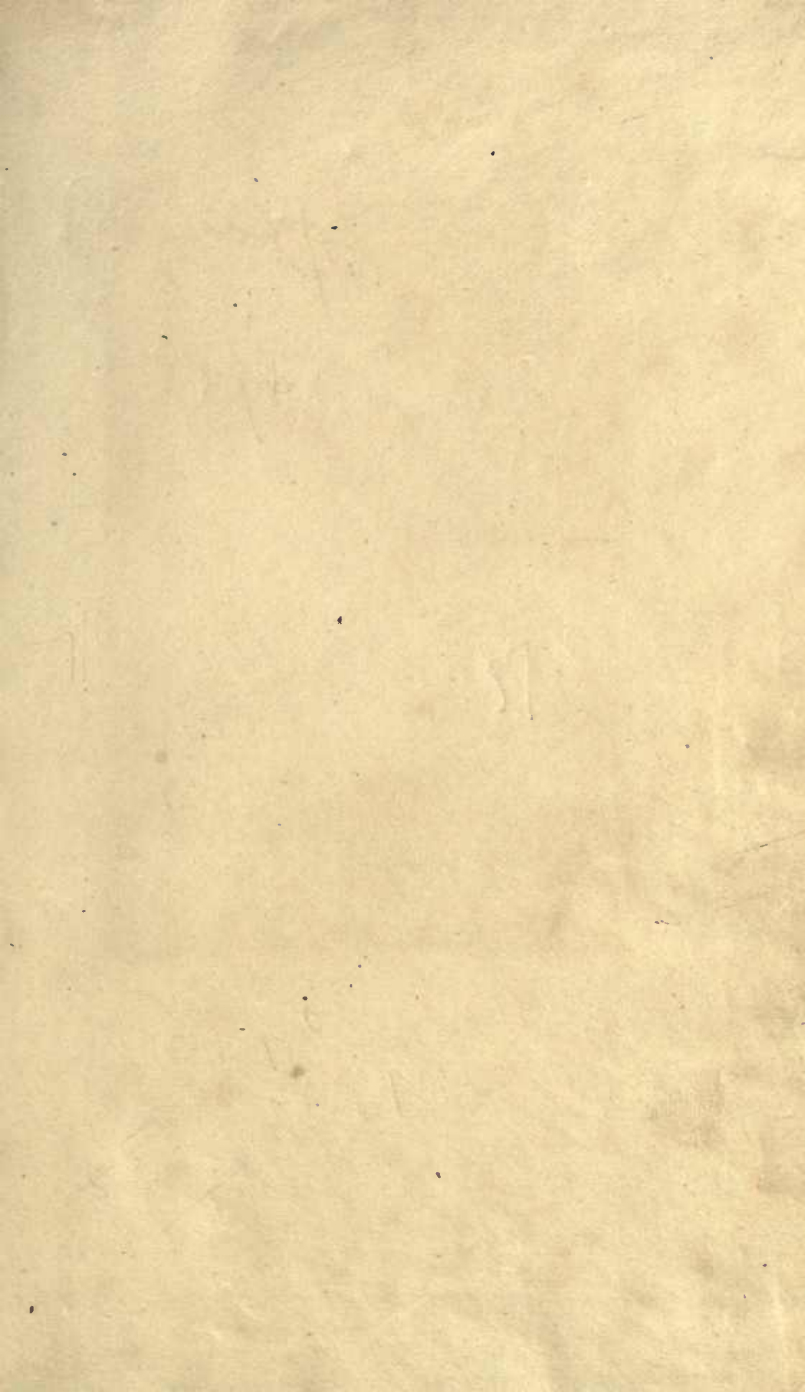
UC SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY

Ex Libris

C. K. OGDEN

came

Horton Jeffery.









1711

Swindling Unmasked.

AUTHENTIC ANECDOTES, OF HENRIETTA KENERITZ,

ALIAS,

Baroness de Menckwitz ;

Otherwise Miss Price—Lady Douglas—Mrs. Douglas
—Mrs Wray—Mrs. Hughes, &c. &c. &c.

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF

Joham Henrich Ferdinand,

Baron de Menckwitz ;

NOW CONFINED IN THE FLEET PRISON.

GIVING A PARTICULAR ACCOUNT OF

The Baron and Baroness's Depredations on the Continent—their
Swindling Practices on their arrival at London—Defrauding a
Merchant of Twelve-hundred Pounds—their infamous Thames-
street connexion with Hughes and Smith—her Swindling Practices
on Dr. B—d—m, &c. &c. &c.

DISPLAYING THE MOST

WONDERFUL ACTS OF DEFRAUD

That were ever practised in this Kingdom.

For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her
iniquities.

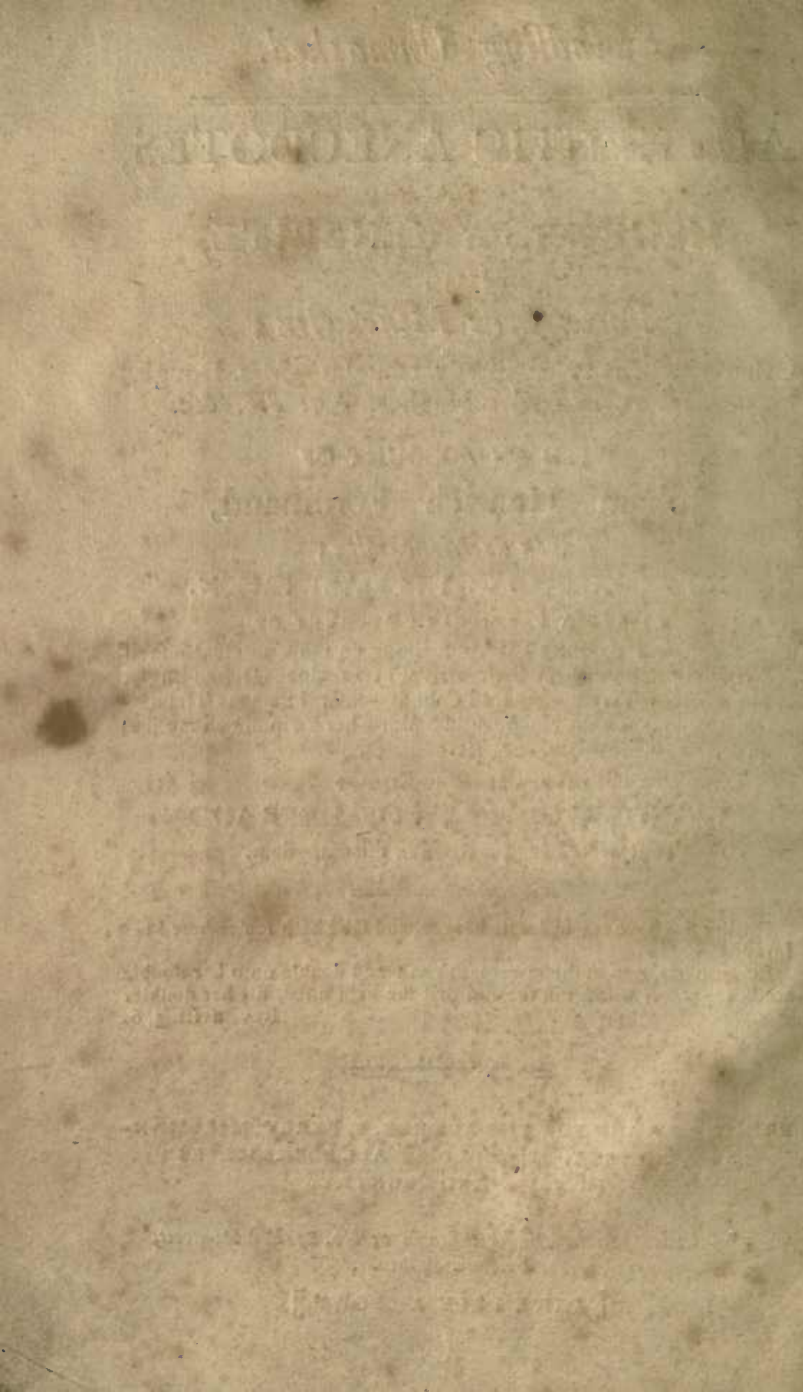
Reward her even as she rewardeth you ; and double unto her double
according to her works : in the cup that she hath filled, fill her double.

Rev. xviii. 5, 6.

PRINTED BY AND FOR THE AUTHOR, S. PERCY, MILLMAN-
ROW, CHELSEA, AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS
IN TOWN AND COUNTRY.

*** Orders for the Author taken in at No. 3, Princes-street,
Leicester-square.

[PRICE HALF A-CROWN.]



PUBLIC AT LARGE.

THE necessity of publishing these Anecdotes is obvious : and in such a widely-extended field of action as London, uncommon perseverance was required. The turpitude of the mind of the parties is manifest : thanks to the gentleman who fastened up the man. Base as he is, his field of action is prescribed ; but even there he has brought to beggary some credulous women.

By the German hand-bill they were obliged to fly their native land, and become fugitives and vagabonds, with a price set upon their heads.—The man was heard to say (in the vexation of his heart) of his partner in iniquity, “ that if two roads were pointed out to her, the one strait the other crooked, the perverseness of her nature is such, that she would take the crooked ;” and those who were in the habits of intimacy with her, confirm it. They say—“ she is devoid of every particle of gratitude, and would sacrifice the best friend the moment her turn is served—that she is devoid of every particle of remorse, and

the man whom she treats with the utmost dalliance this moment, she would betray and execute the next—that her art is so excessive, that though you were warned against her, she would find out new ways to deceive you—that with those with whom she is familiar, she makes no scruple to tell all the tales of her infamous life with the utmost levity, laughter, and exultation, and has frequently declared—that lawyers should come and converse with her, to learn their business.”

From such a picture of abandoned depravity, what has not humanity to dread, if her means were equal to her will?—a total dissolution of society must be the consequence.

She has the tongue of a Syren, the bite of an asp, and the fangs of an harpy. Like the Egyptian sphinx, though she has the front of a woman, she has the rear of a beast: she is as polluted in mind, as she is prostituted in body; and when some jail has disgorged her, she is full-freighted with the cadaverous refinements, and the dregs of every crime.

Let the unthinking and the unwary revolve in their mind this shocking picture: let them contemplate it with horror as a body hung on a gibbet: shun it as they would a mass of corrupted matter floating on the surface of a stagnate pool.

“ For her feet go down to death—her steps lay hold on hell.”

A

SHORT ACCOUNT

OF THE

BARON de MENCKWITZ.

Baron Menckwitz, now a prisoner in the Fleet, was born at Upper Laufnitz in Bohemia, to whose discharge several objections were made on account of his having taken the benefit of fundry insolvent acts, passed within these eight years, and who was fully remanded as a notorious Swindler. He came over to this country from Hamburgh in 1795. He committed a great number of frauds in Vienna: from whence he escaped with the female who represented herself as his wife; and both were advertised there by hand-bills (an original is now in the hands of a respectable Merchant in the city of London, and a copy is here annexed.)

This Merchant he defrauded of upwards of 1200l., by pretending to be a Baron; but after-

B

wards proved to be a dismissed Lieutenant from the Imperial service.

The Baron and lady now took an house in Somerset Street, Portman Square, for six months, and hired a set of servants; also a chariot, the better to carry on their depredations. They pawned the jewels and plate which by fraud they had obtained at Vienna; and they afterwards, with a bill of exchange drawn from Hamburgh for about 600*l.*, introduced themselves to the acquaintance of the Merchant alluded to, to whom, about three weeks after application was made for the loan of 100*l.*; offering as a pledge a diamond ring with brilliants: and who, believing their assertion that they were disappointed, but in expectation of remittances, accommodated them. This sum being repaid within fourteen days; another request was made about a month after to borrow 1100*l.* for the purpose of completing a payment for the purchase of horses bought by order of and for the use of the grand duke Ferdinand, which were to be immediately shipped off by way of Yarmouth; and having insinuated that it was the intention of the Emperor to recal his minister the Count Starenburgh, whom he was to succeed and offered to shew his credentials and introductions to Baron Jacobi the Prussian, and other foreign Ministers, by whom (according to their assertions) they were frequently visited; together with many other plausible stories, which

induced that gentleman to supply them with that sum. About a month after 65ol. was repaid, leaving a balance of 45ol.

During this time two Diamond Merchants and Jewellers had likewise entrusted the Baron and Baronefs with fundry articles, to the value of 8ool.; and having arrested the pretended Baron, it was insinuated that the Jewellers had offered the articles on sale; and if not approved, to take the same in return for others; but that owing to disappointment they were pledged for a few hundreds.

The Baron being anxious not to disclose his embarrassments, by the very pressing request and positive assurances that remittances would shortly come forward, the Merchant alluded to became bail, and was in truth obliged a few months afterwards to pay the money, and surrender the pretended Baron to prison; who in return, and as a compensation for the loss of his property, has by various false assertions harassed his creditor (if he can be called so, which we deny), and put him to considerable expences.

The female afterwards assumed the name of Mrs. Douglas; deserting her husband whom she had previously married, soon after his being surrender-

ed to prison, in order to carry on her depredations as a *Femme Couvert*; and has been successively in all the prisons for these eight years past. She was first taken to Bow Street, upon defrauding a jeweller in New Street, Covent Garden, of a diamond bracelet. Another time she was carried to Hick's Hall, for swindling a Silversmith in Holborn, to whom she had been introduced by Dr. B-----m; the Doctor believing she was what she represented herself, a lady of quality, and offering to procure certificates for the Dr. from several generals and persons of great character in Germany, to attest the wonderfull effects of his medicines.

We here introduce the translation of the German hand-bill.

DESCRIPTION

N. 1311.

Of Joham Henrich Ferdinand, Baron de Menckwitz, who after many depredations committed here, privately escaped, and with him, passing for his wife, Henrietta, pretended Baronefs de Keneritz. This de Menckwitz is 28 years of age, and claims to be de Menckwitz, born in Upper Lausnitz, is single, a Knight of the Holy Order of Stanislaus, which he wears upon a coat, and

is a dismissed Lieutenant from the Imperial service. He is about five feet, eight inches high; his hair inclined to a reddish colour, which in general he has worn here cut round, after the English fashion, and sometimes tied and in a bag. In the face he is blotched, has grey eyes, is rather thin and tall, but well made. His wearing apparel is not so distinctly to be described, he having different cloaths to wear in change.

The pretended Keneritz is above 24 years old, born at Dresden, is single, and a Roman Catholic, five feet high, is rather thin, but of strong stature; has quite black hair and eye-brows, somewhat brown complexion; has black eyes; hair quite negligent or loose, without powder. Whoever can discover, and cause them to be apprehended, is to give immediate information to the magistrates and will be liberally rewarded.

Subscribed,

ERCHARD LEY.

Imperial Magistrate, and
Director of the Police.

Vienna, May 2, 1795.

OUR DESCRIPTION OF HER.

She is about five feet two inches high, near forty years of age, rather plump, or what the French call Enbonpoint, of a brown complexion, paints highly (except she varies it for deception); wears different coloured wigs, mostly a brown; cheek bones remarkably high, rising almost up to her eyes, which in conversation, the flesh on them seems to press; her eyes are remarkably dark and brilliant (particularly when she uses all her arts to deceive); her eye-brows are thin and arched; her nose has hardly any bridge, and is inclined to be thin and the end is a little snubbed. The space between the nose and mouth is an inch; the bone is round in the front, till it comes in contrast with the cheek; the upper lip is thin, the under lip rather full; upon the whole her mouth is very large, especially when she laughs. Her teeth are of a midling size, the side ones rather, asunder. The excessive swell of her cheek bones in front, would give you an idea of a boy's whipping top. On her forehead between her eyes, if you look close, is the mark of a cut. Her aspect is altogether foreign, and she has a foreign accent. Her hair was formerly very black, but if you take off her wig, you will find it grey;

and if she is stripped, under her left breast is the mark of a cut or stab.—Vide Anecdotes.

Dated January 18, 1805.

Here follows another public document, evidently calculated to commit a further depredation on this Gentleman, as shortly after its appearance, a letter was sent him not to pay any bills that might be presented, though it is evident none existed.

“ Public Ledger, Oct. 16, 1796.

“ On Sunday night, about half past Ten o’Clock,
 “ as the Baronefs Menckwitz was returning home,
 “ to her house in Charlotte Street, Bloomsbury,
 “ she was knocked down in Thornhaugh Street, by
 “ two fellows, who, after cutting off her pockets,
 “ which contained bills to a large amount, stabbed
 “ her in the side with a knife, of which she now
 “ lies dangerously ill. She had observed the
 “ villains follow her up Holborn, but lost sight of
 “ them for some time, and did not perceive them
 “ again till she came into Thornhaugh Street;
 “ and what is very extraordinary, she lay weltering
 “ in her blood, on the ground where she fell, till
 “ near one o’clock.

As this scheme brought no money, the next attempt came from a person in Newgate; who said a

friend of his had a number of letters, which passed between the Merchant and Menckwitz, which would be given up for a small gratuity. This likewise failed; the application was treated with the contempt it merited. The advertisement only excited the merchant to write to his correspondent in Vienna, and with his answer he sent one of the German hand-bills.

"Public Ledger, Dec. 16, 1800.
 "On Sunday night, about half past 12 o'clock,
 "at the Baroness Menckwitz's new retaining house,
 "to her house in Charlotte Street, Edinburgh,
 "she was knocked down in Thorough Street, by
 "a horse, who, after cutting off her pocket,
 "which contained but a large amount, rushed
 "to the side with a kick, of which she now
 "feels dangerously ill. She had ordered the
 "officer to follow her up Thorough Street,
 "in a few minutes, and did not perceive them
 "again till she came into Thorough Street;
 "and what is very extraordinary, the messenger
 "in her blood on the ground where she fell, till
 "near the clock."

"As this officer brought no more of the next at-
 tempt came from a person in Newgate; who said a

ANECDOTES

OF THE

Baronefs de Menckwitz.

THE Æra at which we commence our knowledge of the Heroine of these anecdotes is, when one of the prisons had discharged her in nearly a state of nudity. She then went to reside at a house of ill-fame in Greek Street, Soho, kept by a man and woman of the name of Davis. After remaining there some time, she was discovered, and some say on account of the woman thinking she made too free with the man; after which she went to lodge at a Mrs. W——, Hollis Street, by the name of Miss Price. She had not got much in the first house, for she was in a most distressed condition: Poverty is no crime if there is an honest fame attached to the person. Here she washed in the day, the habiliments by which she better carried on the business by night. During her residence here she quarrelled with one of the sisterhood, and was taken to Malbrough Street Police Office.

Bail however was procured, at the expence of two guineas. After this we hear nothing of her till she got into Newgate, and we are told she had here too servants in livery to attend her ; this was in 1797.

During her stay here she managed to fleece a poor Jew out of a quantity of Muslins, &c. She was here at the suit of a Linen Draper. How she got out we do not know ; but during her confinement she became acquainted with Mrs. L——— who went there frequently to see this Jew. Upon her release she went to lodge with her ; they ate and slept together : and as she found the victuals, no charge was made for lodging.

Mrs. L———f had been in trouble after the death of her husband, and was necessitated to pawn many valuable articles : Her lodger contrived to steal the duplicates, and sold them to one El—c—m, Corn-chandler, London-road. She then assumed the name of Douglas. One day she said, “ mother, I will buy you a shawl ; ” “ no, said the other Wait till you are richer.” “ Well, then, mother, I will buy you a ribbon : ” she little thought it was with her own money the other was so liberal.

Shortly after this, Mrs. D——— left Mrs. L———f, and in a little time the duplicates were missed ; Mrs. L———f was in the utmost perplexity to know how they were gone, and

after repeated search, all to no purpose, she went to the Pawnbroker's to stop them; but to her great astonishment, she found they were already gone. She was abused, and threatened to be taken before a magistrate. Mrs. L——f went home deploring her loss, incensed at the treatment she had received, and confounded at the manner in which they were taken.

One day as she was grieving about them, a boy, (son of an acquaintance) accidentally came in, and seeing her in such grief, enquired the cause. On being informed, he said he could give her an account of them; and said he was sent on a message to El—c—m's, and seeing them looking over pawnbroker's duplicates, he noticed among them, her name. She instantly set off to the place, and when she enquired, received a good portion of abuse. At last she threatened them with a magistrate and went away. They however, found means to have an interview with Mrs. D——; and she by some means best known to herself, raised the money she received for them (eleven guineas), and repaid this El—c—m, and the duplicates were returned.

She now quitted Mrs. L—— and went to lodge with Mr. Schurreh, the corner of Newman Street; This was about the latter end of January 1798: and here she continued till the

June following, passing for a single woman. Her landlord, however, becoming pressing for his money, she pretended she was arrested, left his lodging, and went to a Mrs. Cotton's, No. 55, Poland Street, where she assumed the lady of quality; and had the whole house at four guineas a-week. He however followed her, and served her with a copy of a writ; which, with the law expences, soon amounted to an arrest. She entered into an agreement to pay him by instalments half a guinea a-week: this proves how small her resources were at this time, and that the fellow she had absconded with from Vienna, had deserted her, or she him,

She paid her instalments two or three weeks, and then desisted. Butchers, Bakers, Chandlers, and Coal-sheds were ransacked for credit; and many there bear the impresson of her march;—but still she had tow'ring ideas; she had a wonderful itch for the acquaintance and visits of Ambassadors. Her lodgings were not sufficiently elegant; she must have them more in state: but still she was too humble to attempt an Oakly, and therefore contented herself with a Jew Broker in Holborn. She told him she wanted elegantly framed prints or pictures (we do not know which), and some glasses, as she expected a visit from a foreign Ambassador in a few days. Here we suppose she commenced her acquaintance with the Spanish Ambassador.

Moses furnished her with the articles she wanted: Shortly after Mrs. L——f called on her from the Jew, into whose debt she had got, while confined in Newgate; (for he was released, and lodged with Mrs. L——f;) and likewise to remind her of her ingratitude to her. She soon pacified her, by saying, “you see I can do something yet; by C—d you thought I could do nothing, but you see what fine things I can get.”

In a little time her finances growing low, she thought she would make free with Moses first, and accordingly went to another Jew, and told him she had some pictures and glasses to sell. The Jew appointed his time to view them, but not caring to trust to his own judgment, called on his brother Moses, to take him with him; but what was Moses' surprise when he entered the room, to see his own pictures offered for sale to another. He exclaimed, “by C—d these are my pictures.” The lady not a whit discomposed, said, “d—m you, take them with you.”

One night she got Mrs L——f (as she lives near the Fleet Prison) to go with her into the Fleet, saying she had some business with her husband. When they entered the room, the cloth was laid for supper, and two knives and forks, and two plates, which struck Mrs. L——f, that her husband was to have company. She rowled her eyes about to Mrs. D——, who took the

hint; and going to the bed which was turned up, said, " Pray madam walk out." A female came from behind, saying, " You left your husband to starve, but for me. I am the daughter of an English Baronet, and no imposter;" the other said to Menckwitz, " You villain! have I not SWINDLED for you? He replied in German. She answered, " Speak in a language that every person understands:" Thus ended the interview.

A lady of her consequence would not long want, for shortly after she sold the blankets, the counterpane, and the window-curtain; Evil tongues went so far as to say she sold the bed. Be this as it may; while she had Mrs. Cotton's house, she persuaded the servant maid of the house to become of her party. The measure of her iniquity was now brim full, and she was safely lodged in in the King's Bench. Here she became acquainted with one Wray, and it is supposed he found the means to effect her liberation.

Upou her enlargement from the King's Bench, she took a house in Half Moon Street Piccadilly: this was in 1798. Here she assumed the name of Mrs. Douglas, Fancy Dress Maker. Her house was intended to be the rendezvous of all the idle and dissipated; in short it was a place of mutual convenience. Here she assumed a new profession; she engaged with a Tally-Man. Lest our reader should not understand the term, a Tally-Man is a person

who lets out rich dresses for females, by the day, or week. She had a number of these ladies, which she attired for the Play or Opera House, and attended them there, taking care to introduce them to proper customers. She had one customer, a Coal Merchant, who bargained for Young Ladies, and he paid a superior price. Like Henry VIII. he was a wonderful judge; for he was supplied with cast-offs, a little while kept up from practice!

With all her different professions of Mantua-Maker and Procurefs, her finances were in a tottering state, and she had recourse to stratagem, Dr. B—— of Syrup memory, used to visit her house, and seems to have been very intimate; but there is some excuse for him, on account of his coming from the same country (or near it) with our heroine. She went to his Silver-Smith in Cheapside and bespoke Plate to the amount of 140*l.* in the Dr's. Name. When they were finished the Silver-Smith refused to let her have them, but went to the Dr. to know how they were to be disposed of: The Dr. refused having any thing to do with them, or to be responsible. She went to him, and remonstrated, and represented that if she did not get them she would be ruined, as she was to have a large party to dine; that she was to receive 300*l.* the following week, and would then repay him. The Dr. however persisted in his refusal. She then told him, if he did not oblige her by giving his

note, she would publish transactions that would be his ruin. This alarmed his fears; and after much reluctance he gave his note, and she received the Plate. When however the note was due, the Dr. refused to pay, and the Silver-Smith, not caring to drive things to extremity, waited some time before he forced payment; but finding neither party intended to pay, he declared if it was not duly honoured by such a time, he would proceed against them both as Swindlers:—She had no character to lose, but the Doctor had, he therefore paid the money. In a few days after the plate made its final exit.

Soon after the plate was paid for, she paid another visit to the Doctor; and after acknowledging the obligation she was under, and told him she had it now in her power to make his fortune: He had his doubts; till she explained: and expatiated on the benefits that would arise to him. She then informed him she had painted his professional talents in the most glowing colours to his Excellency the Spanish Ambassador; that she was invited to dine with him; and through her he had invited Doctor B—— likewise. The Quack, whom nobody noticed, notwithstanding the flash he cut with a *Vis-a-Vis*, service of plate, and three or four courses for dinner, thought this was the happy moment his fancy long predicted to shew off his magnificence in meridian lustre: he was highly sensible of the

favour, and thought her his best friend,—his guardian angel. He accepted the invitation with rapture, as he very naturally expected all the world of fashion would be there. We doubt not but some men in his situation would have taken a cooling draught to temper their brain! However, his diamond button suit was ordered to be aired; his diamond set-snuff-box, and his rings, were burnished up to the utmost tone of brilliancy. The day at last arrived—and likewise the hour. In all the pharapanalia of state he set off.

Reader! hast thou seen a Lord Mayor's shew? if you have, contrast your ideas to one carriage, and one individual, and you will have some idea of the pomp and magnificence of the Doctor!—He arrives at HalfMoon Street—after waiting a little time his hostess appears; and with a face well formed to the occasion, informs him 'tis impossible she can accompany him that day; an inexorable creditor having put an execution in the house for 200l.; that she shall be ruined, her credit undone. This was a cruel disappointment after such towering hopes! At last, after much hesitation, the Doctor gave a check on his Banker. This revived the lady's spirits, and after dispatching the myrmidons of the law, away went the Doctor and the lady, *Vis-a-Vis*, to the Ambassador's. But alas! the Doctor's evil genius still followed him; for lo! though the Ambassador received him

very cordially, he was *solus*; and he ordered himself to be denied to every body else.

Reader! think if you were bedizened with costly baubles, and there was nobody to look at you, how would your vanity be mortified! Think if you were a lady and had with care and cost got ready for a birth day exhibition, and it was postponed! then you will easily conceive the sensation of a fortunate Quack Doctor, when, after giving a check for 200l. there was nobody to look at him. The Ambassador was dressed in an old brown coat, and the lady had obtruded herself through his fears, lest she should expose the object of his visits to her house; and the *Corps Diplomatique* be ridiculed in the News-Papers. It is said the Doctor returned home lamenting his hard fate; and the thoughts of his check deprived him of sleep that night: It was, however, fortunate that he had not the gout in his stomach, or an apoplectic fit did not take him that night; and have died; if they had, History would have falsely recorded that he died of grief.

Whether there was an execution in her house or not at the time, we know not; but Mr. Squibb shortly after had. These were small things to her great mind; for it did not damp her spirits. The Jew whom she got in debt with while in Newgate, whenever he called for his money, she made

administer to her wants ; for in his bill (which we saw) are entered, *Wax Candles, Tea, and Five Bottles of Rum**.

Mr. Squibb called one day to see how matters stood ; when the door was opened he thought he had mistaken the house ; till looking more carefully at the servant, found it to be one of his own men, dressed up in new livery. Asking the meaning, he was informed Mrs. D—— was to have a large party that day, and had them all put into livery to receive the company ; and he supposed he was invited also.

The business of the house, however, took a more gloomy aspect ; and she was once more upon the wide world. She was acquainted with a notorious character of the name of Sp——gs : he was employed to find her an house, which he did in Gerard Street : It was occupied by two ladies in a public line of business ; they consented to resign for six guineas.

She came to see the house (dressed in a scarlet spencer) and liked it mightily : She had removed

* This poor man died with Mrs L——, at No. 10, Bell Savage Yard ; and as he could not pay her for her lodging, trouble, and attendance ; he gave her this debt, as the only remuneration he had in his power.

all the moveables she could from out of the last house, even to the empty small beer barrels. She gave twenty guineas for entrance. Her friend, it is said, went to the adverse Attorney, as she was out upon bail, and informed him she intended to set off. He then said her bail was meditating to surrender her; but she was determined, however, to have the start of them, and went to her old friend the Constable, (who now keeps a Lock-up house, No. 1, Warwick Court, Holborn,) and desired him to put her into Newgate. She was in such a hurry to be sent to Newgate, that she would hardly permit the Officer to eat his dinner; and to hurry him the more, she threatened "If he did not make haste, she would cut her throat." At last she was put under safe keeping.

This was what her worthy friend wanted, as all the articles she concealed and got away from the last house were deposited here; he likewise kept possession of the house till the landlord was obliged to give him twenty guineas to quit.

She had not been long there before she picked a quarrel with a debtor, and gave him a box on the cheek; at the same time she put a guinea into his hand, and desired him to swear an assault against her, which he did; and she was removed to the Felon's side. This was a manœuvre to

prevent her being removed to the Bench by Habeus Corpus.

We forgot to mention while she was at Half Moon Street, she was put into the Fleet, by Mr. Wellis, Oilman, of New Bond Street; but he let her out, as not being worth *Powder*, as beggars are termed.

In Newgate she remained for some time; and when liberated she changed her name to Wray; and in that name she and Wray took an house, No. 3, John Street, Golden Square, at two guineas a-week ready furnished. There she had it reported that the house and furniture were her's; and it was likewise reported that the landlord only slept there out of compassion; though he informed us he had a lodging more airy for his health. Wray and she were in several trades, in the Tallow Selling, and Manufacturing of Sugar; and during the course of their experimental life, they found nothing added to the weight more than sand. We are not in possession whether any Grocer taught them or not; though we know by experience, some Grocers that play that game: We rather suppose their own sagacity was their guide. They sold two hundred pounds worth of sugar to one person, and had an order for four hundred pounds worth more; but one of their own party, Mr. N——,

being jealous of the new firm; gave the purchaser the *hard word*, and spoiled their trade. She carried on, however, one or two trades more. She drew a note, and persuaded a person's wife who was in the King's Bench, to accept it: They both went in a coach to a person in Pall-Mall, who took it for goods, and gave them 12l. in cash. Mrs. Wray's part was immediately taken to the gentleman under the *Golden Ball*. She had another scheme against the person whose house they hired. The man was in an ill state of health; therefore had a lodging at some distance, which made him let the house at a cheap rate. She pretended what wonderful interest she had through her husband's connections, passing Wray for a Merchant, (indeed the Sugar trade gave some colour to it,) and said she would get a boy of their's into the Blue-Coat School, and took the mother to Alderman Coombe's, with whom she said she was intimately acquainted (at the same time no doubt but she knew that the Alderman was out of town). She even afterwards forged a letter, (or had it done) in the Alderman's name, signifying the child should be admitted as soon as he had passed through the necessary forms of examination, as to health, state of body, &c. and sent the letter by post to the parents, inclosing the certificate of their marriage, and the copy or the father's freedom of the city of London. She even got herself introduced to the nurse by Mrs. L——f, that she might afterwards take

the mother to drink tea with her, which she actually did; using the same familiarity with her as if she was an old acquaintance.

By these stratagems she so far wrought upon the credulity of the parents, that nothing they could do for her was enough; and she particularly applied herself to the man: but the wife was a little too clear sighted. She went to Alderman Coombe's to return thanks, but here the business was unraveled. It seems this artful woman had gained over one of the Alderman's servants to her interest, and he connived at her schemes. The Alderman, however, very sharply reprimanded him; nor would he permit the fellow to make the least defence. During the short time they were permitted to remain in this house. they were beginning to strip it: The first thing that was made away with was the counterpane off the bed; but Alderman Coombe's business *expedited* their expulsion, and omiting payment *completed* it.

On their quitting this house the name of Wray ceased; and from a housekeeper, she was reduced to become an inmate in her old lodging, the King's Bench, once more. She became acquainted with an elderly woman of the name of H—yes: This was in 1800. The Mock Baroneſs generally manages not to be confined in the ſame Priſon till the lapſe of time has given it a new ſet of

lodgers; as from her having played so many tricks upon the old ones, she would be in danger of starving. She applied to this Mrs. H—yes for bed-furniture, and most pointedly for a white counterpane, as she declared she could not sleep under a coloured one, and a mattress for her maid.

Be it remembered the maid servant lived with Mrs. Cotton of Poland Street, when she stripped the lodging of part of the furniture. Therefore having seduced her from her duty, she was the fittest person for her purpose. The next day they were sent to pawn; and she and her maid could then sleep without either bed or counter pane.

Though in prison, and not knowing when she should be liberated, she was continually planning fresh schemes. There was a German Count, named B—g—d—ff in prison also; and it is more than probable, he was the principal instrument who put together the Swindling Catalogue. There was a French Teacher in also, and they made a capital *Trio*. She now pretended the Teacher was making out an account of an estate in Norwich, that was to be sold for 14000*l*. The Blackheath Swindling seems to be planned on this idea; for they originated from the same firm. But in fact he was translating into English this German Bantling. Whoever assisted her, were little inferior to herself: be this as it may,

The story of the Norwich estate was a cover to this business, and gave her consequence as being a woman of fortune.

She knew this Mrs. H——yes supported herself in prison, by the hire of two beds and bedding, and that she had some table linen; she now pretended she had a daughter that was boarding at a school at Kensington; that she and her governess was to dine with her on a certain day; that she was fourteen years of age, and was to sign her consent that this estate should be sold; but coming in a female line, it could be only sold for their lives, and that as she was to have Lawyers, she must appear respectable. She asked Mrs. H—— to lend her a Damask table-cloth, and seeing her inclined to comply, she desired it might be a large one. This was likewise sent to pawn. She next applied for bed-furniture, for a woman stiled the Baroness Wotenburgh, who came to lodge contiguous to the Bench, to attend on her husband; and she said she would be answerable for their safety and payment. Mrs. H——answered, very innocently, she would let the lady have them, and take the responsibility on herself. The object was to get this bed also; but the answer defeated the scheme, and it was no more mentioned. She next applied for a bed for the person who was writing for her, respecting her Norwich estate, and whom she could not pay till it was disposed of; she knew, however, she would not let him have it, as he was in her debt already. During the conversation, as if

it was planned, he came in, and on her responsibility she agreed. She then asked what room it should be sent to. Mrs. D—— answered, bring it here, and he shall take it to his room himself. Mrs. H—— found afterwards that it was pawned that night by a messenger of the name of Thompson, and a good supper was provided, and count Roggend---ff was of the party.

The next affair was, Baron W—— came into the room where the translating prisoner, Mrs. D——, and Mrs. H——, were sitting. Mrs. D—— desired the Baron to amuse himself with reading over that catalogue, giving him, it is supposed, the German one. When he was seated, she beckoned the translating prisoner out, whom we shall hereafter call Mr. G——, and shortly after returned and called her servant maid out, and gave her something as she was entering, which she, the maid, threw the tail of her gown over. Mrs. D—— came immediately up to the table and putting one hand over the Baron's chair, and the other over Mrs. H——'s, who was sitting sewing, as if to see what the Baron was reading, (but in fact to cover what was acting in the back scene.) Mrs. H—— accidentally turned her head round, and saw *Stora*, the maid, thrust something behind the bedstead. Shortly after the Baron retired. It must be remarked the Baron was reputed a very careless man and frequently or always left his door open (a proof he was but a novice among these harpies). Mrs. D——

knowing this, said she would have a good joke at his expence some time or other, and this was the time to put it in practice; and in beckoning Mr. G—— out, it was to rob his room; and the parcel she called the maid out to receive, was a double-milled great coat, and a waistcoat. The Tailor, a German prisoner, charged seven pounds for them. They might be said to be new, as the Baron had them on only two or three times. Shortly after the Baron retired. Mrs. H—— knowing Mrs. D——'s intention, said, "lord, madam, you have been playing some tricks with the Baron;" she answered, "Did you see?" "Yes, madam, I did." She then ordered *Stora* to bring them from behind the bed, and shew them to her; which *Stora* did. Mrs. H—— was going to take hold of the waistcoat to look at the pattern, but drew it back, recollecting herself, said, "She would not touch it." "Oh, ho, you are going to turn King's evidence, we'll swear you:" She answered, "She would have nothing to do with it." Mrs. D—— said, "I will persuade the Baron to have them cried, and offer five shillings reward for the finding, which five shillings I will lay out in a leg of mutton, and invite him to dine on it, and you know he will eat the greatest part; and then I will inform him he has dined at his own expence: it will teach him to be more careful, hereafter." They were cried: The manner of crying Mrs D—— claimed

much merit for; and, as it was done by her, it excited the laughter of all the prisoners, and the Baron not understanding English sufficiently, it was a most ridiculous jargon. No coat was found. Next morning Mrs. H—— went up to her room; the moment she entered, the other said look here, putting her hand into a cupboard and pulled out a Pawnbroker's ticket, Mrs. H—— said, "What is that," she answered, "It is the ticket of the Baron's great coat and waistcoat for eighteen shillings." No more was said respecting it is at this time.

A fortnight previous to her discharge, she was taken ill, and kept her mattress. A prisoner's wife told Mrs. H—— that she was afraid Mrs. D—— had pawned her down bed, as a bed was seen removing from count R——'s room. She hastened directly to Mrs. D——'s room, to know the truth. Mrs. D—— pretended to be extremely ill, and her great modesty never permitted her to rise before any person; therefore she requested Mrs. H—— would retire, which she did. She had, however, some suspicion Mrs. H—— would pay her a visit again, therefore she borrowed the Count's bed. Be it remarked her down bed was in a cheque case, which was detained, and the Count's bed was now put into it to blind Mrs. H—— (which accounts for her modesty; as her manner of life bears testimony of consummate art), and had she arose in the presence of

Mrs. H—— before the case was on, the trick would have been found out. Mrs. H—— returned to know the truth of the bed. The bed-cloaths were now a little removed, prierous to her entry, and on seeing her checque case, and the swell of the bed, concluded all was safe, and that the report was through malice.

We shall now leave the lady, happy in the enjoyment of her superior talents; and, like the *Devil on Two Sticks*, take a review of Count R—g—ff's affairs. A Mrs. Brown, whom he had hired a bed from, coming in at this unfortunate juncture, missed her bed out of the Count's room. She set up the *Hue and Cry*; and the bed was obliged to be produced to gratify her, and *Miss Price*, *Baroness*, alias *Kenritz*, alias *Menckwitz*, alias *Lady Douglas*, alias *Mrs. Douglas*, alias *Mrs. Wray*, was obliged to rise and deliver up the bed—her modesty to be discomposed, and her delicate frame, that could not sleep on a down bed, without a white counterpane, obliged to bear the rude embrace of a merciless facking bottom. Oh rueful situation! What's to be done? These cursed beds ever kept her wits at work; but great geniuses always find means to extricate themselves; whereas common capacities would be abashed. A moment's pause effected the business. The mattress is mounted aloft upon six chairs; which upon Mrs. H——'s entry, two days after, quite astonished her. With a very grave and serious face she informed her the Doctor had

ordered her not to sleep upon a bed at present, as it too much weakened her. The bedstead where she thought her bed was, was turned up; she said, when it was down, it took up too much room. The maid and the mistress slept together on the mattress, and without a white counterpane. Necessity levels all distinctions, and drives away all the little impertinences of pampered consequence.

The morning of her discharge, which was on a Saturday, the Doctor ordered her not to go immediately into the air, but to season herself by degrees; and as she had got beds and bedding, she now wanted a shawl. She therefore, sent *Stora* to request Mrs. H—— would be so good as lend her one. This shawl Mrs. H—— valued at two guineas: she got it; and without remorse left the prison that evening. She told Mrs. H—— she should not leave the prison till Wednesday, and as she had had the Baron's great coat and waistcoat so long, she should get them on Monday, and Mr. G—— should put them into the Baron's room secretly, and not let him know how they came back. At the same time she desired her to get her bill ready by Monday, and she would pay her, and her property should be returned, and invited her to dine with her on Monday, with several women prisoners, to whom she would give a good dinner.

On Monday, when the dinner hour was come, all was anxiety; none had seen the Baroness that day: at last tumult and uproar seized their sto-

machs. Alas ! there was nothing but patience to appease the disorder—No Baronefs—No dinner. Let the hungry or epicure draw a picture of their feelings ! Misery without and commotion within ! —No doubt but on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday she enjoyed their sorrow with a mind as case-hardened as the blade of a Damascus sabre.

On Wednesday the Marshall ordered the door to be opened. Reader ! contemplate this scene. Unlike the prime Minister whom we have read of, who, when his enemies entered his secret room where they thought the pillage of the nation was hid, they found only the emblems of his innocence—his humble garb, and shepherd's crook. Here was exposed the proofs of her infamy—here was only one mattress, one blanket, and one pillow, and one coverlid.——For the Marshall there was an old Pelisse, that afterwards sold for a few shillings, towards defraying the rent of the room.

Mrs. H—— asked Mr. G—— for the bed which he had got, but was informed he never had it. Thus was she plundered of two beds, three blankets, three fine sheets, a white counterpane and pillow cover, befitting a lady as she thought of an estate of 14000*l.* : these were all this poor woman had to sustain her in the Bench, and which this unprincipled imp of Hell robbed her of ; and afterwards made a boast of it, and lamented she had no more.

While she was in the Bench, a woman who sold fowls to the prisoners, attended one day as usual :

Mrs. D—— called to her from the two pair of stairs landing (the woman being on the first) and asked her how she sold her fowls: being answered, she replied they were too dear for her. The woman went into a prisoner's room, and left her basket on the landing place 'till her return. It is customary with those sort of people to have two sorts of fowls, the best under the cloth in which the upper ones are wrapped; she watched her opportunity during the woman's absence, slipped down softly, and carried off, unpercieved, one of the poor woman's best fowls: she told this story with peculiar satisfaction.

We have to remark what makes her character more black, is, when her discharge came, she took Mrs. H—— by the hand, and said, "she would be able to get her out of prison;" and she wrote something to the Attorney that put her in, but what the purport was she did not know, as she declared, "she would die in prison rather than pay an unjust debt." Her answer was, "that her character was none of the best;" but finding she *fired* at such an imputation, she changed ground, and said, "she meant only her warm temper was not in her favor; yet she would be her friend; she would get her out; but she must sign a paper, that whatever she should do for that purpose, she should be sanctioned in, and no harm should come from her." The other answered, "She would do no such thing; she would sign nothing but what she understood." It was intended by this artful woman only to trick

her out of an instrument; that should afterwards act against herself, when she should claim her beds, &c. The Baroness proposed to her to accept a note, to get money upon: the other replied, "Who will pay any regard to the acceptance of a prisoner:" but that was got over by saying, "That was her business." Mrs. H——, however, fully denied doing any thing of the kind.

She was so well known in the Prison, that she kept very close, lest those who knew her might inform the strangers of her tricks, and put them on their guard; therefore, when she took the benefit of the air, it was always by night. On the door of her room being opened, and the poor woman's property was found to be made away with, all mouths were open against her: it seems her moveables were easily carried, as her own back answered the purpose of a servant and porter. The dashing shawl went a great way (like a Spanish cloak) to cover her under garments. During her stay in prison, she borrowed Baron W——'s seal, and kept it, and afterwards had the impudence to affix it to her cards, and seals all her letters with it to this day, and says it is her family arms.*

* Menckwitz sent a letter to Mrs. L——, requesting to see her, she suspecting nothing, went to him, he had nothing on but a dressing gown when she entered, he told her he could

Being once more at liberty, she went to No. 3, John Street. (Notwithstanding she had played the people there such a trick,) and supplicated them to let her and her maid sleep together; they compassionated her distress, and humanely let her in. She was so extremely industrious in her calling, that no weather could keep her in the house; she has often returned wet to the skin. Somehow or other a table-spoon was missing; she gave half a guinea to stop their mouths. She now strove to reconcile herself to Mrs. L——, whose duplicates she had made away with. She fell on her knees, and in the most abject manner supplicated her to forgive her: The poor woman was easily duped; a well wrought tale was sure to interest her, which Mrs. D—— very well knew; she applied the proper salve to the weak part. Mrs. L—— introduced her to a Mrs. A——, of Fleet Market; Mrs. A—— to Mr. R——, who asked him to get some friend to discount a

get out of prison if he could raise 40l.; and asked her to accept a note for him, and he would repay her by instalments, and give her a good premium for doing it. She told him she would do no such thing. He fastened the door, and attempted to lay his hand on her breast; she flew in a passion: He told her he had pistols. She then very composedly sat down, and told him, she valued not her life: He might take it: Finding he could do nothing with her, he let her go. We saw a letter of his, pretending to explain it away; but in our mind, only more firmly confirmed her story; it is signed Minck—z, but it is the same hand-writing with a note of his, in the hands of the Merchant alluded to in the beginning of these Anecdotes.

bill for 15*l.* as she represented herself to have a number of wax figures in the Custom House, that she wanted to clear of the duties, and produced the catalogue in manuscript, that was compiled in the Bench. In corroboration. From the number of figures, he was sure that an exhibition would be successful; but he objected to the person on whom the bill was drawn, one Vin, an Attorney. She, however, lessened that objection, by proposing him a very lucrative situation in her house, as cashier, machinist, and overseer of the whole business.

Shortly after, with the help of her associates, she got an house in George's Street. She then shewed him the lease, which intirely removed his scruples. She next applied to him to recommend her a person where she could get a number of pieces of linen, which he did from a person in Oxford Street. The next object was to get wax heads, which she did, from some poor Italian in Holborn, who made wax dolls, and these, she pretended came from abroad. She persuaded the landlord of the house, No. 3, John Street, to procure her credit for 10*l.* worth of baize, from the house where he was clerk. She likewise got acquainted with a Mrs. H——gs, who lent her furniture, which was afterwards sold; and the real proprietor got no part. She persuaded Mrs. Heathcote, an old infirm woman to lend her 10*l.* she made her a present of a gown, and some trifling articles, and repaid her the money. A little while after she borrowed 20*l.* from her,

which she never intended to pay, and the poor woman died in the greatest distress.

While the business was going on, some of her creditors scented her out, and arrested her: she applied to Mr. R—— to bail her, or join her in a note, and promised to give him a sum in the evening to settle the debt, and the overplus should be for himself. After much reluctance, and fearing the business would be cut up, he consented, but he afterwards had to pay the debt, together, with all the law expences, which with the sacrifice of his time; amounted to a round sum. During these transactions, she still kept her eyes upon Dr. B——, and as she had done all she could personally, she now determined to make a push for her friend, Count R—g—ff. He invited the Dr. to dine with him: A single man is not supposed to have many rooms; if the cheer is good, and abundant, it supplies the place of the decorative and fanciful. The Dr. was highly pleased with his reception, and with his host, the Count; for we find an intimacy took place, and the vacant place in his Vis-a-Vis, was occupied by him. Had a fortune-teller informed him he should be elevated to this honour, he would have rather thought she meant the gallows. Be his sensations what they might respecting that, his mind was not unemployed, as he helped himself to 250l.

Afterwards when she was in Newgate, this Count's name was mounted upon the door, he

attempted to get muffs and tippets from Mrs. L——; then residing in Sackville Street, but the money was required to be paid before their delivery; As she seemed to be in a fair way to get forward, her old friend Mrs. L——, and her daughter, paid her a visit. A maid servant, told her, her mistress was at home. As she did not wish to remember old favors, another servant maid said, the former had mistook, for her mistress was not at home. Mrs. L——, was highly vexed; and when she returned home, she wrote a sarcastic epistle, which occasioned the following reply.

“ Mrs. Douglas’s compliments to Mrs. and Miss L——; “ is extremely sorry that she was not at home to receive Mrs. “ L——, with that politeness which is due to Mrs L——’s “ quality; as Mrs. D—— happened to be forty miles out of “ Town; but if Mrs. L—— will give herself the trouble “ another time to send her Page the day before, to signify the “ honor she intends; Mrs. D—— will certainly wait her “ pleasure.”

Mrs. L—— wrote as follows.

“ Mrs. L——, has just sat down to write her mind to Mrs. “ D——. Mrs. L——’s great quality was very great, “ when she degraded herself to go to Newgate to see Mrs. “ D——; recollect, you were not so great then—you were “ humble enough when I visited you in the Fleet. Then you “ was glad to see me. I took you when you left that place, “ when you had not one penny in your pocket, nor a change “ to your back. You borrowed my daughter’s shift and cap, “ and after taking you to my bed. Oh blush! when you read “ this, how you served me—stole my duplicates, and sold “ them. Is that your great quality, that you boast of? At the

“ time you was at my house, you bought a goose, and a leg of
 “ pork, and left them both for me to pay for. Is that your
 “ quality you boast of so much? I have no Page, nor have I
 “ any quality to boast of. But I have an honest character, and
 “ that is more than you have. Now, madam, I want to be paid
 “ for your board and lodging, and my daughter’s shift and
 “ cap, &c. &c.

Mrs. H—— in the Bench, was so irritated, when she found her beds, &c. were gone, that that she sent all her acquaintances to work to find her out. The poor woman must have starved, but for a niece of her’s, who lent her a bed to hire out. At last she was found in George’s Street.

In January 1801. Mrs H—— applied to the Marshall for redress; but no notice was taken of application. She then sent for one of the Magistrates, who took her affidavit concerning the loss of her property, but took no further steps. She then procured a day rule, for which she was obliged to pawn her bed furniture. She then applied to the sitting justice’s in the Borough for a warrant to apprehend her. They told her the business rested with the Marshall; and that he should have granted a warrant to take Mrs. D—— up; let her be in what part of the kingdom she might. Mrs. H—— told them he had refused; and she likewise told them where her beds were; and that money was borrowed on them; and begged of them to stop them; but they refused, “ counsel said that they had a right to take the property under the Pawn-

brokers act." Mrs. H—— next went to Mr. Templar's, but he not being at home, as her last resource, she went to George's Street. At sight of her, Mrs. D—— seemed much confounded. Upon her demanding her property, she took her up to the drawing room, and fell upon her knees (Reader, remember she is good at that!) and promised fervently her beds should be got that day, as she expected money every hour. She also demanded her shawl: Mrs. D—— said, it was almost worn out; but she should give her a cloak, worth three guineas, in lieu of it; and then shewed her the cloak: She waited the whole day. At five o'clock she begun to be very uneasy, as she feared some trick, and wished to see Mr. Templar: There was no signs of either money or beds. Mrs. D—— then told her, if the money did not come that night, she would pay for a fresh rule, to enable her to come in a few days. Seven o'clock arrived, and no money. She was told the cloak, which she intended to give her in lieu of her shawl, was sent to pawn, to procure money for a fresh rule (as it is to be observed, a guinea and a half is paid for a fresh rule; and to obtain it, this poor woman was obliged to pawn her bed-curtains; and with the expences of the man who attends, amounts to near two guineas) Oh, monstrous! What excuse can be made for this exaction.

She got a fresh day rule and waited on Mrs. D—— again: she was dressing; but in a few minutes came down. She said she was going to the Bank for money; that on her return Mrs. H—— should go in a coach with her, and get her beds. A good dinner was provided, and about two o'clock she returned. Dinner was ordered, viz a goose, apple pye, soup, &c. a servant in a green livery with gold epaulets to attend; but, lo! when all was ready, Mrs. D—— entered, and told her guests there was an execution in the house; all was confusion and for once she was frightened, or she otherwise acted her part well. In a little time, she recovered herself, and said, the Baliffs should be discharged; she would send for her Attorney. About seven o'clock she arrived, and told her, nothing but paying the debt would do. Mrs. H—— was obliged to return to Jail once more, without her beds. She went twice afterwards, but no beds were to be had. A fortnight after, Mrs. D—— was sent to Newgate herself, where she remained until June, with ten detainers against her. However, her associates managed to get bail for her, as their trade would be at a stand for the want of her superior talents. In Newgate, she became acquainted with Hughes; and she managed to procure his liberation. They went to lodge with one Bryant, a Milkman in Bishop's Court, Old Bailey. Shortly after his liberation, the Officers were in search of him for a capital

offence : how the prosecution was stopped we know not *.

The creditor who confined her, called at Newgate one day to enquire after her; and finding she was out, said he would not rest till she was in again. The Turnkey answered, “ send her to the Fleet, or the devil; but for God’s sake don’t send her here.” While she was in she breathed vengeance to her creditor, and threatened him with the pillory. He sent her the two following letters in consequence of her insolence.

“ Madam,

“ I arrested you for nineteen pounds, and you
 “ could get no person to bail you ; now if nineteen pounds sent
 “ you to Newgate, where was the 20,000*l.* that was necessary to
 “ carry your schemes into effect—I will answer—in the
 “ pockets of the nobility, which you wanted by a legerdemain
 “ trick to transfer into yours—The pass—begone, was the
 “ word with you ; and Mrs. D——, alias, alias, alias, to the end
 “ of the alphabet, would be gone also, and credulous John

* Passing for a Baroness, she by her well-feigned stories, and the connivance of those about her, so ingratiated herself with Briant’s wife, that she lent her ten pounds, which she paid in a short time ; then in a little while afterwards she attempted to borrow twenty pounds more ; but that failed ; and no doubt but she sorely bewailed her having paid the former sum. She even wrought upon the woman so far, that she got from her, writings which gave them claim to a small farm in Ireland ; where she said she had property, and her agents should get it sold for her. No doubt she and her agents were good at selling and pawning. The husband made her return them.

“ Bull would have been laughed at. Had you been an artist
 “ there would have been some chance ; because abilities would
 “ have made up the difference. But an impudent impostor, that
 “ is as various in her shapes as the cameleon in tints ; con-
 “ nected with a set of sharpers, intending to gull a nation, is
 “ monstrous !—Does not the pillory glide across your mind’s
 “ eye. ’Tis on these grounds I shall oppose you. Reflect upon
 “ these at leisure and repent.”

The Second.

“ Madam,

“ Independant of what I informed you respecting
 “ your mode of life for years back, I shall now remark upon
 “ your catalogue : it was one of the most impudent swindles ever
 “ attempted upon the British nation ; and it is by such people as
 “ you that the nation does not encourage real merit. You sent
 “ a catalogue, for which you never paid, wherein were por-
 “ traits inserted, not one of which you had or could have : and
 “ the two or three you had, were not likenesses of the persons
 “ now, but had been eleven years back. What was the
 “ intent of the catalogue ? to actuate the nobility to send money,
 “ that you might hum them.—John Nokes would be Tippoo
 “ Saib, Peter Stiles would be the emperor of Germany. Our
 “ old friends, John Doe and Richard Roe would personate other
 “ potentates, if they were ever personated at all. To come to
 “ the point, your giving Wells a power of attorney for 500l.
 “ when you acknowledged to S—— you had not 100l. pro-
 “ perty in the house. Thank God ! bad as the times are, we
 “ have a Lord Kenyon, and a Lord Eldon, who have long claws,
 “ and well sharpened, and ready to scratch such backs as
 “ yours. We say, would to God none was allowed redress in
 “ a court of law, but those who entered them with clean hands ;
 “ then would the country boast of a real good.”

This woman, after all the crimes she had committed, had been in this house but about three months, when the account against her stood as follows:

Mr. Wells, Tailor, Swallow Street	£ 640
Mr. Banoe, Cashier and Machinist	107
Mr. Pitter, Laceman, Pall Mall	84
Mr. Bolland, Hair-dresser, St. James's Street, money borrowed, and law expences	64
Mr. Williamson, Chandler, Swallow Street	24
Mr. Jones, Chapel Street, Printer	24
Mr. Percy, Statuary, Chelsea	22
Mr. Stevenson, Tin-man, Brewer Street	52
Mr. Jackson, Linen-draper, Oxford Street	24
Mr. Jackson, China-man, Saville Passage	16
Mr. Harrison, Bead-maker, Gerrard Street *	
Mr. Woodstock, Butcher, Tyler Street	15
Mr. Windus, Baker, Swallow Street	7 10
Mr. Richardson, Copper-smith	7 10
Mr. Grenstead, Carpenter, Warwick Street	30
Mr. Coal-merchant	23
Mrs. Dresser to the Theatre	14
Mr. Wakeling, Turner, Silver Street	7 10
Mr. Musician, Rathbone Place	14
Mr Schurrah, Chandler, for lodging, law expences, &c.	60
Mr. Glindon, Printer, Rupert Street.	

We ask the candid reader, is he not surpris'd that a notorious public depredator should be able to get this credit, when the greatest abili-

* This creditor was paid by M——, tailor, and the next week he was a bankrupt.

ties, and highly moral character, cannot get gool. through the whole cities of London and Westminster, to carry on a most praise-worthy business! Yet we know a person who has by effrontery, by artifice, by lies, and by impudence, got gulls sufficient to subscribe 18000 guineas to a museum, that was to be opened years since; which museum has been collected from the misfortunes of ingenious men—who pretends to be in raptures when one of his organs are playing, though he does not know a single note of music, yet in the broad face of day, asserts he is the maker; who astonishes the ignorant where he gets the money, not knowing he is connected with money-lending attornies. It is from ignorance that our good government permits the ingenious men of the country to languish, while the cheat and the monopoliser batten in sunshine.

This fraudulent exhibition was said to be under the auspices of the Prince of Wales. It must have been procured through misrepresentation; as we know the most trifling performances sometimes obtain the sanction of royalty, while the best and most valuable artists are scarcely known.

“ Far from the madding crowds ignoble strife

“ Their sober wishes never learn'd to stray:

“ Along the cool sequestered vale of life,

“ They kept the noiseless tenor of their way.”

A
C A T A L O G U E
OF THE
GRAND UNION MUSEUM,
CONSISTING OF
TEN ROOMS AND A NUMBER OF CABINETS.
Under the Patronage of
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES,
Erected at the Expence of
SUBSCRIBING AMATEURS
OF THE
FINE ARTS AND SCIENCES.
TO ILLUSTRATE THE GLORY OF
THE BRITISH NATION,
BY A
NEW, COSTLY, AND PERMANENT EXHIBITION:

The Grand Union Museum will open February 5th, 1801.
The hours of admittance are from six o'clock in the afternoon,
till twelve—Sundays excepted.

The Nobility and Gentry are respectfully informed, that the
Grand Union Museum is in great forwardness, and now open,
and are requested to send their Subscriptions, when they shall re-
ceive a Ticket, which will entitle him or her to Admission for a
Twelvemonth, and they will please to specify, whether the
Ticket is for a Lady or Gentleman, as they are not transferable.)

If at any time, a party should wish to visit the Grand Union
Museum in private, by giving a day's previous notice, such
party or parties may be accommodated, and an hour will be ap-
pointed, out of the regular time, for that purpose.

The Grand Union Museum is composed of upwards of three hundred and ninety figures, properly and magnificently decorated, each according to the costume of their respective rank, and a great number of curiosities, which have never been before offered for public inspection.

First Room.

A view representing a beautiful landscape; The scene is laid on Parnassus—Apollo, surrounded by the Nine Muses. The names of the Subscribers will be printed on white sattin, and elegantly framed. The Patron of the Museum. 1 Milton. 2 Skakepeare. 3 Pope. 4 Newton. 5 Sheridan. 6 Herschell. 7 Franklin. 8 Burke. 9 Rollin. 10 Fox. 11 Lavater. 12 Horne Tooke. 13 Sir Joshua Reynolds. 14 Rubens. 15 Vandyke. 16 Mrs. Siddons in the character of Elvira in Pizarro. 17 Mrs. Jordan in the character of Angela, in the Castle Spectre.

Second Room,

Represents the King and Queen of Great Britain sitting on the throne, receiving the compliments of the royal family, and the nobility, on the occasion of the Princess Royal's marriage with his serene highness the duke of Wirtemburgh; the whole group consisting of 40 persons, all in the most superb and splendid court dresses; the ladies' heads in the most fashionable style, adorned with a profusion of diamonds.

THE DIFFERENT PERSONAGES.

1 The King. 2 The Queen. 3 The Princess Royal, having her train borne by two young duchesses. 4 The Duke of Wirtemburgh. 5 The Prince of Wales. 6 The Princess of Wales. 7 The Duke of York. 8 The Duchess of York. 9 The Duke of Clarence. 10 The Duke of Kent. 11 The princess Augusta Sophia. 12 The princess Elizabeth. 13 The Duke of Cumberland. 14 Prince Augustus Frederic. 15 Prince Adolphus Frederic. 16 Princess Maria. 17 Princess Amelia. 18 The princess Charlotte of Wales, with 19 Lady Elgin. 20 The Duke of Gloucester. 21 Prince William of Gloucester. 22 Princess Sophia of Gloucester. 23 The Prince of Orange. 24 The Princess of Orange. 25 The hereditary Prince of Orange. 26 The hereditary Princess of Orange. 27 The Duchess, train bearer. 28 A Duchess, train bearer. 29 The arch-bishop of Canterbury. 30 The bishop of London. 31 The right hon. William Pitt. 32 The right hon. Henry Dundas. Attendants, Guards, &c. &c. &c.

Third Room,

Is a chamber in the Turkish Seraglio finished in all the oriental splendor, suitable to the Haram of Tippoo Saib. The whole contains 29 figures. 1 General Harris is represented in the attitude of asking the two sons of Tipppo Saib, after they were made prisoners, what servants should attend them. The general in one hand holding the standard of Mysore, taken by him, which was sent to Fort William; it is made of light green silk, with a red hand in the middle, which was never hoisted but on the palace at Seringapatam. 2 The eldest son of Tippoo. 3 The second son of Tippoo. 4 Tippoo Saib in his last moments, weltering in his blood. 5 The Sultana, 20 years of age, dressed in a white robe, spotted with silver; and round her neck, four rows of beautiful pearls; her head dress, a turban with a profusion of brilliants. The Sultana is attended by four female slaves, and five mutes. A number of British officers and slaves.

Fourth Room,

Is an elegant saloon, in which fifty persons can assemble at a time, and in which will be exhibited the representation of the *fete champetre* given by their Sicilian Majesties, in the Royal Gardens at Palermo, in honour of Lord Nelson, created Duke of Bronti.

This apartment is occupied by 19 figures.

In the middle of the garden, is a temple of Glory, surrounded with fountains, playing lavender and rose water, on which are placed three pedestals. On the first pedestal is a bust representing Baron Nelson of the Nile; the next, a female figure, in an elegant attitude, representing Fame with her Trumpet; and the face a perfect representation of Lady Hamilton, and the resemblance of Lord Nelson. On the brow of the figure is placed a wreath of laurel, which his Sicilian Majesty takes off from the medallion, and places it on the head of the noble admiral; round the temple are also fixed four Egyptian pyramids, on which are inscribed the names of the most distinguished heroes of the war in Europe; and on the tunic and robe of France, are embroidered the names of those heroes, who particularly distinguished themselves in the battle of the Nile—various instruments are heard playing Rule Britannia, and God save the King.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES.

- 1 His Sicilian majesty in full dress, with a wreath of laurel, placing it on the head of the noble admiral Baron Nelson, &c.
- 2 The Queen of Naples, having a medallion in her hand, with her majesty's picture richly set in diamonds, with these words inscribed,

"Friendship, Gratitude, and Remembrance," hanging it round Lady Hamilton's neck. 3 Lady Hamilton dressed in a most elegant robe of white and gold; her head-dress consists of a cap of Britannia. 4 Lord Nelson, dressed in a naval uniform. 5 Sir William Hamilton, dressed in a Windsor uniform, and the order of the Bath. 6 The hereditary Prince of Naples. 7 The hereditary princess of Naples. 8 A prince. 9 A prince. 10 A princess. 11 A princess.—Gentlemen and ladies belonging to the court of Naples, &c.

Fifth Room,

Represents an apartment in the Pope's palace at Rome—pope Ganganelli is discovered in his coffin, the papal crown lying at his feet; the apartment is hung in black velvet, a castum dolore is seen, the most magnificent ever beheld, round it placed two hundred wax lights; the room is crowded with a number of ecclesiastics of all orders, and of the highest dignity. This room represents 40 figures. 1 The pope. 2 Two cardinals. 3 Two bishops. 4 Two arch-deacons. 5 Two sub-deans. 6 Two dominicans. 7 Two franciscans. 8 Two jesuits. 9 Two Augustins. 10 Two capuchins. 11 Two of the order of La Trappe. 12 Two Carthusians. 13 Two of the order of St. Lazarus. 14 Two brothers of the Holy Charity. 15 Two of the order of Malta. 16 Two chamberlains. 17 Two secretaries. 18 Four nobles. 19 Two guards and an officer.

Sixth Room,

Represents a most superb bed-chamber; in the bed is sleeping the Venus de Medicis (a fine figure), in which is combined all that taste and magnificence can unite; at the moment, the eye is dazzled with the costliness of every surrounding object, the ear is ravished by an invisible melody, almost celestial; at the same time a most grateful perfume is diffused through the apartment; illuminations the most superb, adorn this place; and one would be induced to imagine that a supernatural power conducted you to an enchanted palace: Adonis is seen undrawing the curtain of Venus's couch; one of the nymphs appears ready to disrobe herself; a group of nymphs are seen playing with the god of Love, whilst others are amusing themselves with harnessing Venus's dove to her car.

The whole apartment is illuminated by the reflection of lights placed in glass baskets.

1 Venus de Medicis. 2 Adonis. 3 A nymph. 4 God of Love. 5 A nymph. 6 Ditto. 7 Ditto.

Seventh Room,

Represents the Congress at Pilnitz; the Emperor, King, Princes,

Princesses, and Nobility, in all to the number of 50 persons, sitting together at dinner in the palace of the elector of Saxony ; there never was seen before so many illustrious personages assembled together:

1 The emperor Leopold. 2 The arch-duke his Son. 3 Francis, now Emperor. 4 The king of Prussia, Frederic II. 5 His eldest Son, the present King. 6 The Duke of York. 7 Monsieur, now Louis XVIII. 8 Count D'Artois, now Monsieur. 9 The Elector of Saxony. 10 His eldest Brother, prince Anthony. 11 His second Brother, prince Maximilian. 12 The Electress. 13 The princess Anthony. 14 The princess Elizabeth. 15 The princess Mariane. The Duke of Courland, uncle. 17 The Russian ambassador. 18 The Russian ambassador's lady. 19 The Emperor of Germany's ambassador. 20 His lady. 21 Lord Henley, the English ambassador. 22 Lady Henley. 23 The Prussian ambassador. 24 Bishopsweider, favourite of the King of Prussia. 25 Count Marcoline, confidant to the Elector of Saxony. 26 The countess Marcoline. 27 Father Hertz, confessor to the Elector of Saxony. Father Hubert, confessor to the other princes. 29 Prince Charles Ligtenstein. 30 Prince Kaunitz. 31 Count Colloredo. 32 Thugut. 33 Count Balbi. 34 Count Padiani. 35 Count Magasci. 36 Count Lindenau, master of the horse to the King of Prussia. 37 Count Schulemburg, minister of Prussia. 38 General Benkendorff.—Ladies, gentlemen, and attendants, belonging to the court of Saxony.

Eighth Room,

Represents the Elysian Fields ; among the many who are to be seen in them, are a great number of noble and illustrious characters, heroes and men, who have distinguished themselves in arms, and the various sciences, belles lettres, &c.

Represents Thirty-one Figures.

On entering Elysium, one sees the monument of the great Laudohn ; the general's neice is sitting pensive ; at the foot of it a little Turkish girl, which he brought home with him from Turkey, and an old soldier lamenting his death.

The empress Maria Theresa, recieving Louis XVI, her daughter Marie Antoinette, and the young dauphin, kneeling.

In another group, is seated on a bench the emperor Joseph II. next to him on the right hand is seated the princess Elizabeth of Wirtemberg ; on his knees he holds her infant daughter, of three years of age ; on his left is the princess Mary, aged fifteen, his infant daughter ; behind the emperor, is seen standing, general Laudohn.

Catharine, empress of all the Russias, receiving Suwarrow, who recounts to her his battles.

George II. and queen Elizabeth, both seated, and surrounded by the duke of Marlborough, general Wolf, lords Chatham and Exeter, and captain Cook.

A GROUP.

The old king of Prussia, Frederic the Great, with two goddesses standing on each side of him ; the first giving him to drink, the second putting a crown of laurel on his head.

Voltaire seated, reading to him the philosophy of Sans Souci ; three little angels surround him ; he makes a sign to prince Frederic of Orange, who is dressed in an Austrian uniform, to advance ; at a little distance are seen standing, generals Zeithen and Sedlitz.

1 The empress of Germany Maria Theresa. 2 Marie Antoinette, her daughter. 3 Louis XVI. 4 The young dauphin, nine years of age. 5 The emperor Joseph II. 6 The princess Elizabeth. 7 The infant daughter of princess Elizabeth, two years of age. 8 The princess Maria, the emperor Joseph's daughter, aged fifteen years. 9 General Laudohn. 10 Catharine empress of Russia. 11 Suwarrow. 12 George II. king of England. 13 Queen Elizabeth of England. 14 The Duke of Marlborough. 15 General Wolf. 16 Lord Chatham. 17 Lord Exeter. 18 Captain Cook. 19 Old Frederic king of Prussia. 20 Voltaire. 21 A goddess. 22 Ditto. 23 An angel. 24 Ditto. 25 Ditto. 26 Prince Frederic of Orange. 27 General Zuithen. 28 General Sadlitz. 29 General Laudohn's niece. 30 A Turkish girl. 31 An old soldier.

Ninth Room.

Represents some of the greatest heroes that have distinguished themselves during this war, by sea and land—

CONTAINS TWENTY-NINE FIGURES.

1 Earl St. Vincent. 2 Vice admiral Lord Duncan. 3 Admiral Winter giving up his sword to him. 4 Prince Cobourg. 5 General Clairfait. 6 Earl Howe. 7 Lord Cornwallis. 8 Sir Sidney Smith. 9 Bonaparte. 10 The Duke of Brunswick. 11 Lieutenant Coghlan, royal navy. 12 General Abercrombie. 13 Admiral Mitchell, near him. 14 A Dutch peasant in the habit of his country. 15 General Coote. 16 St. Graham. 17 Sir Edward Pellew. 18 Kosciusko. 19 Lord Keith. 20 Prince Condé. 21 Prince Hohenloe. 22 Sir Edward Berry. 23 General Melas. 24 General Kray. 25 Prince Frederic of Prussia.

Tenth Room,

Represents a sea-port town ; an English frigate is discovered at a distance ; the Emperor of Russia, Paul I. accompanied by his con-

sort, the Empress of Russia, the Grand Duke, and two Grand Duchesses; besides many of the nobility of the court, &c.

CONTAINS SEVENTEEN FIGURES.

1 The Emperor decorates Sir G. Popham with the Insignia of the order of St. Jean. 2 The Empress of Russia. 3 The grand Duke. 4 A grand Duchess. 5 Ditto. 6 Capt. Sir G. Popham in a royal naval uniform. — Nobility, officers, English sailors, &c.

CABINET FIRST,

Contains Seven Figures.

1 The Countess of Lichtenau, commonly called Madame Ritz, in her glory, when favourite with Frederic the King of Prussia. 2 Napper Tandy. 3 Robespierre. 4 Murat. 5 Madame La Motte. 6 Caligostro. 7 Charlotte Cordé.

CABINET SECOND,

Contains Nine Figures.

The Duchess of Brunswick in conversation with the present Queen of Prussia and her sister. 1 The Duchess of Bruuswick. 2 The Queen of Prussia. 3 The Queen's sister. — Maids of honour, attendants, &c.

CABINET THIRD,

Contains Twelve Figures.

The Empress of Germany, sitting at a small table, with three of her children. The arch-duchess Mariane, sister to the present Emperor, in full dress as lady abdess, with two nuns attending. — 1 The Empress of Germany. 2 The Arch-Duchess lady abdess. 3 The Arch-Duchess Marie Louisa, born Dec. 12, 1791. 4 The Arch-Duke Ferdinand, born April 19, 1793. 5 An Arch-Duchess, only two years old. 6, 7, Nuns. — The rest attendants, &c.

CABINET FOURTH,

Consists of Eight Figures.

Eloisa, after she has taken the veil, in the full habit of her order; writing her farewell letter to Abelard; Abelard pensive. A very fine Madona with her child. 1 Eloisa. 2 Abelard. 3 Madona. 4 Her child. 5 Warren Hastings. 6 An old fortune-teller. 7 A Quaker. 8 A female Quaker.

CABINET FIFTH,

Represents Twelve Figures.

Sir Richard Carr Glynn's (the late lord-mayor) child in a silver cradle, surrounded by eleven little boys, belonging to the various

public institutions. 1 The Lord-Mayor's infant. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Westminster, Charter-house, St. Paul's, Christ's, St. Bride's, Greenwich, Draper's-hall, Foundling, Freemason's, Welch, and St. Patrick's school-boys.

CABINET SIXTH,

Contains Fourteen Figures.

Representing a number of great and distinguished characters.—
1 The Duke of Portland 2 The Earl of Spencer. 3 The present Lord Chancellor. 4, 5, 6, Lords Thurlow, Kenyon, Eldon. 7. Duke of Bedford. 8 Marquis of Salisbury, Lord Chamberlain. 9, 10, 11, 12, Lords Moira, Fitzwilliam, Castlereagh, Hawkesbury. 13 Hon. T. Erskine. 14 The late Lord-Mayor (Combe).

CABINET SEVENTH,

Represents a Chinese family drinking tea; the apartment furnished after the Chinese manner. 1, 2, An old Chinese man and woman. 3 A young Chinese in company with, 4 His mistress. 5 A Chinese infant.

CABINET EIGHTH,

Represents Twelve elegant Figures.

An apartment in the Grand Signior's Seraglio; he is surrounded with his favourites. The Grand Signor seated on a couch, most superbly decorated. 1 The Grand Signor. 2 His favourite Sultana. 3, 4, 5, Turkish ladies.—The rest attendants, &c.

But to return to our duty. Various were the attempts made use of to get this engine of destruction out of prison; Count R——, offered to give his note for 52l. when he partook of the entertainment got by her tricks, and 250l. of Dr. B——, when he lent her his hired bed to perfect her schemes: 'tis an old adage—tell me who's your company, and I'll tell you who you are. While she was in prison a Mr K——y occupied her house. Mr. K——y asked the waiter of a coffee-house the corner of George's Street, where in George's Street a Mr. K——y lived:

the waiter said he knew no such person. Mr. K——y replied, he is a man of large fortune, just come from India. A Baker's boy, who was resting his basket on the rails, very deliberately said: "From India! No, he is just come out of Newgate." Upon hearing this, the mock nabob set off.—This was another mode to puff a straw man into consequence. As we mentioned before, this lady was now once more upon the public, and practises again upon the credulity of Mrs. L——; from whence she issues with a letter from a friend to Madam Lanchester of Sackville Street, to get credit to the value of 5l. Finding she was not at home, and that her sister did not know her, she got to the amount of 49l. under pretence that she was just arrived from Hamburgh, that her boxes were not landed; and that she was to dine that day with Lord and Lady Malmesbury: she likewise persuaded her to let her have a necklace that was round her neck. Having got these articles so easy, she paid another visit, but Madam L—— being at home, and having given orders that should she come again, she might not be permitted to go away till she saw her—she locked the door, and called her a swindling jade, or words to that purport, desired her at her peril never to come there again, or she would take her up, and said the letter was the cause of her introduction, but supposed the gentleman who wrote it would reimburse her.

She had now got as much property as would make her appear respectable, besides there was some for the gentleman under the *golden balls*. One of her late creditors happened to spy her, and in a day or two, she was safely lodged in a spunging-house. She was frequently assisted by attornies, whose actions have brought an odium on the profession. If she by her artful tongue got a respectable man to act for her, he soon abandoned her to some

wretch of the profession, who, like herself, some goal had lately disgorged; and set up the plea of *femme covert*, thereby foiling honest industry of a just debt, and likewise incurring her expences. If the law was altered in this respect, there would not be an incitive to this roguery; thus by being backed by unprincipled men, she has escaped so long, and female swindlers have a sanction which the males have not. The law boasts of equality; but here is proof to the contrary. 'Tis said the law is accessible to all: what was Mr. Horne Tooke's answer—"so was the London Tavern; you might go in, but you could not eat without money." The law in the hands of bad men is a dreadful evil indeed; it is an engine to be feared even in the hands of good men, for as the wisest are but men, there are wonderful provocatives towards warping them from their duty. We hope we shall never have to complain of it as the people under Rehoboam did of his father's reign.—"My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke. My father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."—Kings, chap. xii. ver. 14. Such an age might be called the IRON AGE; and should it pervade our age, no scourge can be more relentless than THESE SCORPIONS. If a *femme covert* sets fire to a house, her husband being absent, she will be hanged for it; and if she does it in the presence of her husband, and he strives not to restrain her, he will be hanged. We shall ask this question: after De Menckwitz was rendered to prison, he married this woman: what was the motive—she from the portion of experience she had of the credulity of the English people in giving credit to those who had GREAT NAMES, saw, like Satan, in Paradise, what a harvest she could make with impunity; therefore we suppose the language she made use of was this, or similar: "If you will marry me accord-

ing to the laws of this country, I will relinquish the share which I undoubtedly have a right to, in the property you have got; but if you do not, I will turn evidence against you, and my evidence will positively transport you; besides, by your marrying me, I shall get free from my present confinement, and be able to do you services when at large, which I cannot do if confined here." There is not a shadow of doubt remaining upon our mind but this was her language; for they shortly after were married in Mary-le-bone church.

A gentleman has written a pamphlet upon the impolicy if imprisoning the body for debt, but to take the property. We differ from him, and the swindler is a strong position; for if the body was permitted to go free, there would be no law to restrain him, and though at present we cry out against a few, in a few years we should have no crime so prevalent. If the receiver of stolen goods is transported for fourteen years, why not the swindler for twenty-one? and a *femme couverte* swindler should forfeit her life, if it was proved, she married to get a licence to defraud with impunity; for if it is said the laws were intended to be equal: here is proof against such being so in fact.

Another grievance which we must with a loud voice cry out against, is, this swindler was allowed to bring a writ of error against her landlord's claim, though she had robbed his house. We assert, some very strong law is absolutely necessary to stop the career of swindlers, some strong brand by which they shall be publicly known; for they evidently destroy the respect which the lower order of society would otherwise have for the higher, by assuming their titles. Writs of error should not be tolerated but upon the most mature deliberation; and if it was proved afterward, that they were got only to procrastinate payment, the tradesman against

whom they acted should, upon full proof, be amply compensated. They are generally the offspring of hurt pride: delay in payment has been the ruin of many families, and the poor-rates have considerably augmented this evil.

In the building line, we shall mention one dire evil: a tradesman has a large bill upon a gentleman; Mr. Surveyor perhaps don't like him, he does not bow low enough; or he knows his circumstances are straightened; he puts off the surveying; he pretends being busy; the business is intricate; all these side-wind intimations the tradesman does not or will not understand: he, perhaps, has a bill due at a certain time, and the amount of this work is expected to pay it. The law should oblige Mr. Surveyor to measure the work in so many days after proper notice is given, or else be responsible for the damage the tradesman suffers by his neglect. Trade should have every facility; or else how are the taxes to be paid, or the poor-houses to be kept empty?—only by strictness in payment, purity in those connected with the execution of the laws, and probity between man; therefore let us in our several departments sit our shoulders to the great and good work, to buttress and support the well inclined, and to crush and make examples of the bad. How is all this to be done? may be said: the answer is easy—let the upper classes imitate the virtues, not the vices, and let legislation be taken from the school of science, not from the nursery or the stews.

—————Let not fear

Sully thy virtue: 'tis the lot of guilt to tremble.—
What has innocence to do with fear?

We now come to a grand climax in the history of this infernal machine—the formation of the celebrated Thames-street association, under the firm of *Edmund Smith, Hughes, & Co.* Though we are not

precisely correct in point of time, we shall give the reader a view of the house, and the manner of getting it. It seems some obstacles were made by the parish-officers; to remove which, the name of Menckwitz was obliterated in the marriage certificate, and H——'s inserted: this was done not in the common way, by scraping, but by a process we shall not expose:—while we expose the villainy of others, we shall take studious care not to give even the ill-disposed a clue to act by. This perfectly answered their purpose, as it removed all the objections.

While this lady was in Newgate, she formed her connexion with H——s: they went to lodge at No. 16, Edward-street, Portland-street. Smith was their landlord; but it seems they lived separate in the house, at least at first. We watched the lady narrowly there, but did not know of the prior connexion in Newgate at that time. Smith was said to have been formerly transported; others said, no, he had been a slave-driver; 'twas now said he was a horse-dealer. His house was furnished by a broker, for which he was to pay one-hundred and fifty guineas. She sent for Smith's wife one day, and said, "I am a lady of character and quality, though I have not brought servants to town, except my footman; but don't think it strange at seeing such a number of gentlemen with me, and no ladies. I have come to town upon private business; the gentlemen that visit me are my lawyers, and persons upon law affairs, respecting an estate of twenty-thousand pounds (here is the old story over again): your servant must cook and attend me, &c."

Another time she said, "when I am not upon my law business, I am very lonely; can't you come up stairs and sit with me? pray make free; though you little know who you have got in your house; I am the baroness Menckwitz." The other thanked her, but excused herself by saying, "she had work

to do, and her children to attend to." " Pray, what profession is your husband ?" being answered, she rejoined, " I have not seen him, perhaps I could do him service ; I have many friends." When she had seen him, she and a friend of hers, said, " some other line might be struck out more lucrative."

A short time after Smith was confined in Newgate for debt, and hearing he had thirty pounds towards the payment thereof, she called upon him, and after some conversation, asked him to give it her, and she would have the remainder made up, and get his release. He gave her the money ; and the captain and herself set off for Bristol upon their new swindling scheme.

The day they set off, or the day following, we knew of it ; and called upon some of the creditors, and told them we were acquainted with Mr. Weeks, who then kept the Bush tavern ; that if they would pay their share of the postage of letters, &c. we would write to him to get his waiters to send circular letters to all the different manufacturing towns, to stop their progress ; but the creditors were lukewarm ; therefore the matter dropped, and we remained silent, thinking some person would catch them, and have spirit enough to prosecute them.

We take some censure for our conduct now, as had we followed our impulse, a person in Liverpool might have saved seven-hundred pounds worth of colours. The name of this person was afterwards frequently forged, to answer their different purposes. These very colours were sold to colour-shops (which we could name), at very reduced prices afterwards, with intent, no doubt, to open a book-account, to swindle them when the time suited ; as we have in our possession their own London Directory (which we got by stratagem), wherein are one-hundred and fifty oil and colour-men, with a cross before their names ; twenty-two with an S, and one with an O. Some of the crosses are marked with red-ink, and no

doubt remains with us, but each had its proper signification.

We shall now leave the *quandom* baroness and her captain in the country, and return to Smith.

How he obtained his liberation we know not. Of his character, his next-door neighbour gave the following account:—"that he was a very loose man, coming home at all hours; never was seen to stand at his door in an open manner, but always darted in as if in fear; once requested to go through his house, to get over the wall, and so into his own house, at four o'clock in the morning: at the time, had his clothes dirty and torn, and seemed as if he had been on no good; was not known to do any thing; lived on the best, &c." At last he sold his household furniture to another broker for fifty guineas (this proves him a very respectable character), for which he was to pay the original owner one-hundred and fifty.

As they were removing, one of the tax-gatherers chanced to pass by and saw them; he met the collector of the king's taxes: he sent for a constable, and with a smith's sledge, he assailed the door, as those within would not open it. At last, finding it give way, they cried out for a parley, and opened the door.

During this transaction, the neighbour before mentioned ran for the landlord; he arrives, and laid in his claim. The broker undertook to pay the rent and taxes; as, no doubt, seeing the state of affairs, he availed himself of the opportunity, and had a good bargain. The whole fifty pounds or guineas were devoured by the landlord and the tax-gatherers. The owner of the furniture caught the body, but by neglecting to pay the *Sixpences*, was liberated.

The lady and the captain had now returned, and had taken up their abode at No. 19, Downing-street, where they lodged for some time. They told wonderful tales of themselves and their property, but

were at last reduced to the utmost distress ; inasmuch that they were invited to dine with their host out of compassion : from hence they removed into Queen's square.

In a short time they made their peace with Smith, and he was taken in to be the head of the Thames-street firm. Edmund answered two purposes—either for Christian or surname. The lady said to those who knew nothing of No. 16, Edward-street-business, that Smith was her *brotha* ; but when he was taken up for horse-stealing, she was silent on that head, and he was no longer her *brotha*. When conviction took place, they propagated it was not their Smith, and Smith was changed to Smyth on the door-plate ; and in their own Directory it is altered to Smyth.

They had an ingenious fellow, a porter, of the name of Green, who lived at Newington ; he made up the false parcels of straw and brick-bats, which the lady acknowledged cost twenty-seven pounds. When the firm was broke up, our heroine was advised to sell some of the stock : she answered, “ no, by c—d, H——s shan't say on his return, that she had made away with any thing.” In truth, there was no stock, nor had she any clothes ; for now she lived by selling the duplicates she had swindled B——h and other out of ; but this is premature. The only excuse we can plead is, we did not make a minute inquiry respecting this last junto, till she applied to be liberated under the late Insolvent Act ; and we have entitled our publication *Anecdotes*, as we were aware of the difficulty respecting the order of time under which we laboured : but we sought for information, and the caution of a British public ; therefore our truth and candour will make amends for that order which we may want.

We went to Thames-street, and contemplated the aspect of the house, which seemed well calcu-

lated for trade, in situation, but more so for trick ; as there is no back premises, and but two counting rooms on the ground floors, that were easily filled ; but to make up for that deficiency, they had five warehouses ; so that whatever property was sent to any one of these warehouses, it was instantly conveyed to another ; and should the owner get any intimation of the characters of the gang, except he acted very prompt indeed, his property was inevitably lost to him.

Our next object was how to get information.— Seeing a chandler's shop and green-grocer's nearly opposite, we judged we had hit upon the best plan for our purpose. We were informed by the person who kept it, “ that our heroine was as instrumental in the removal of the goods, as any of the firm ; for from their manner, she soon had suspicion all was not right, although they had all the show of the first mercantile house, viz. box upon box piled up to the ceiling. However, every box or parcel that went out she dodged, and the principal part went to Mr. Watson's, the corner of Queen-street, Watling-street, pawbroker ; she made frivolous excuses to want something in the shop, and saw laces, veils, silk-stockings, &c. pawning. There were five men and but one woman (except the servant maid), and she supposed answered all the purposes of five women.”

The next we inquired of was a poor barber. “ He shaved the pericranium of the lady twice a-week ; she paid him honorably for some time. He shaved the men ; they were a damned set of thieves, for they went away in his debt.”

While here, the lady's old friend, Mrs. H——ys, of bed, blankets, sheets, &c. memory, found out the place of her abode, and was going there to demand payment of her property ; but in her way she met her under Covent-Garden piazza. She accosted her in these words : “ you vile wretch, you infamous

Jade, where are my beds ?” A gentleman-like man was with her ; she had him under the arm : upon this salute he set off, and left them. The other said, “ for c—d’s sake dont expose me in the street ; I live at No. 200, Thames-street ; call on me there, and I will satisfy you ; I will do any thing you require.”

Knowing previously she gave a true account, it pacified her ; she went there frequently afterwards, and was persuaded to work for her, she being by profession a mantua-maker. She thought by that means she would be paid ; she got some money for her work, but none for her beds, &c.

The first floor of this house was appropriated to the pretended office for the gentlemen, and the kitchen. The front room on the second floor was their mess-room : none attended but one of their own party. This may be called the privy-council room, where all state affairs were settled.

Mrs. H. seeing them always desire a genteel-looking young man to hand them beer, &c. she thought it very strange, and that the friends of the young man did not know how he was used, or they would remove him ; as Mrs. D——s had informed her that the house had received five-hundred pounds fee with him as an apprentice. “ Apprentice, said Mrs. H——ys, to what ?” “ Lord,” resumed the other, “ one can never beat any thing into your head—to be a merchant ; we have more warehouses than this ; we have three or four more for our merchandize about town ; besides, the gentleman attends the Exchange.” Mrs. H——ys thought this must be another scheming business, but said nothing : “ you may think we do no business ; but when the shipping comes in, we are up at four o’clock in the morning, sending off goods.”

A person who was a principal creditor to this woman when in George’s-street, became a bankrupt ; some days previous to his shutting up, he sent a

note for discount about Oxford-street; the amount was for sixty pounds, and it might have been had for almost any thing. This person had a power of attorney over all the property that was in, or to come into her house. He took the property to Norwich, and made money of the exhibition there; and it is presumed afterwards to Hamburgh. This man had a tolerable character before he became acquainted with this woman, but she so broke him in, that he was accessory to the forgery of Hamburgh bills of exchange, and sending them over here, as she said, only to give the appearance of respectability to the house; but they were actually given to a woman to negotiate, and she through fear returned them, lest there should be something in them which she did not understand; and his brother employed some dye-sinker of Birmingham, to counterfeit a coin of Denmark, which were sent into that country by way of Hamburgh, for which he was convicted and imprisoned; and we are credibly informed Aquil——r was the man who actually forged the Hamburgh bills.

Thus, reader, you are required, if young in the ways of the world, to guard yourself against the first commission of crime: it may be called, sealing your own death warrant.

The person who keeps No. — Bell-Savage-yard, is a widow, and lets lodgings to persons confined to the Rules, and is unconnected with any schemes they may practise.

To return to the mess-room: Mrs. H—— found an opportunity to speak to the young man, but how was she surprised when he informed her, Mr. Hamb——n was his father. She found out afterwards, that instead of being an apprentice he was a dancing master. Our heroine has made many dance to Hamburgh, for fear of their necks.

One evening as Mrs. H——ys was going home,

Mrs. D——s pretended she had business at Stratford-place bank with two gentleman, therefore, would accompany her part of the way home, she living in Bloomsbury. As they went through Covent-garden-piazza, Mrs. D——s being in conversation with one of the gentlemen, the other, Mr. B——h, said to Mrs. H——ys, the first time I saw you, was here; pray what was the reason you were in such a rage with the baroness; don't you know; she told me one of her clerks had robbed you of beds; did you believe it? I can't say I did; it concerned herself? I thought it did. Thus ended the conversation; as she shortly after parted with them.

In a little time Mrs. H——ys went to Thames-street; the company present was Mrs. D——, Mr. B——h, Mrs. H——ys, and the servant-maid, it was in the kitchen. Mrs. D—— said she would lay him a wager that she would produce more bank-notes than he could; the wager being laid, they pulled out what they had, and she somehow or other won. She proposed another wager and lost. She then came and sat upon his knee, as she saw he had a two-pound note in his hand, and taking hold of it, (wheedlingly,) said she would have it. If there had been no more familiarity than as an acquaintance, would she have acted so? She pulled and he pulled, but he fearing its being torn, let it go. Here is a proof of Solomon's decision between the two harlots.

Shortly after she was called to the warehouse; when she returned, she picked a quarrel with him because he did not take her tea to her; she first threw the basin at him, then the tea-pot; she called him a beggar; he took all very quietly, saying, "it would have been well had he never known her." She got in a rage, and called him all the approbrious names she could think of, and absolutely kicked him

out of doors; she stopped all his clothes, nor would she give him a single shirt to shift him. She afterwards pawned them and whole parcels of pantaloons of his. She may be said to have ruined this simple young man; simple we must call him in allowing his person to be so degraded by such an infamous woman; but she knew whom she had to deal with.

The elder Mr. Hamb—n was clerk in the house at the rate of two guineas a-week. He performed many extraordinary feats. A writ was out against the mock baroness; the men were after her, and espying H——, they told him if he did not assist them to get her, they had that against him as would do his business. They placed themselves in an house opposite, (they had been enquiring for her twice, but she was denied); he came up stairs into the room where she was, and said, “my lady, there are officers after you.” She then said, “no such thing;” he answered, “I am sure there are, come to the window, and I will shew you them.” With all her art and cunning, here she was off her guard; and without thinking of any snare, she advanced to the window, which had blinds that opened on each side. He pulls them back, and said, look there, my lady; this gave the bailiffs a full view of her; therefore afterwards they knew her person. She went to her room, and locked herself in. But he was obliged to go down stairs to them. He led them up and called her down; she was necessitated to come to them, and they conveyed her to a lock-up-house.

We now leave her once more in possession of her firm friends, and shall return to the Anecdotes, though they do not come in the order of time, but we shall first account for this man being obliged to betray her.

Among the number of gentlemen belonging to the

firm of this house, there were transactions carrying on of the most inexplicable nature. A bankruptcy was to be fastened upon one of their private friends ; for that purpose a person was to be found, who would swear to a debt, that would entitle him to strike the docket. A check upon a banker was given, to make him able to swear he was worth so much money. It ran thus :

No. D 855 No. 6, Berners-street, Dec. 25, 1802,

Messrs. Marsh, Stracey,
Fauntleroy, and Stewart,

Pay Mr. G————
or Bearer, the Sum of Ninety-two Pounds.

£ 1 92.

Smyth, Hughes, and Co.
*J. H.————**

It seems the man had qualms, though he had received this check, and to do it away, they entered one hundred pounds more at bottom, by a single figure, which shews the ignorance of the machine they were debasing and deceiving. This check the officers knew of, and this it was that obliged their clerk to betray her.——Youth, let us in every step we advance in this work, warn you to beware of the first approach of evil.

Mrs. D———— got acquainted with a Mr. H——, a tailor, in Conduit-street, by Mr. W——. His affairs being rather precarious, she advised him to

* This check shews what a set of villains were connected together in Thames-street. Smith perhaps was most innocent ; but he being cast for death, and commuted for transportation for life, and is now aboard the Hulks at Woolwich, it was necessary to change his name to Smyth. Here is a positive document of the act, under their own hand ; and J. Haml——n is at this moment a crimping-serjeant.

remove what he could conveniently out of his house ; with her they would be safe ; as a power of attorney or execution would deprive him of all. He no doubt thought when creditors had the upper hand, they would think of the old adage, “ self-preservation is the first law of Nature,” and he determined not to lose sight of it.

His affairs being urgent, he sent her broad-cloths and cloaths ready made, and pawn-brokers duplicates to a considerable amount ; some of the duplicates were sold by Mr. G—— and five guineas were given to Mr. H——. Mrs. D—— went to dine with him, and he actually gave her duplicates to the amount of one hundred pounds, which she sold for nine guineas, and kept the money herself, and when charged with it, swore, “ that G—— had sold them, and had appropriated the money to his own account,” and she told G—— “ only for him she should have been made for ever.” If men who knew the world were duped by her, what chance had females in her hands.

A fellow of the name of Fitz——d went to the shop of Mr. Clark, umbrella-maker, Crooked-lane, and bargained for a silk umbrella ; there was some little matter to be done to it before it was complete, which Mrs. Clark was doing. This fellow pretended to pity her, as being too hard work for a female ; his feelings were so hurt he could not bear to see her, he would do what was to be done to it, and took it out of her hands to finish, but he made so poor a hand of it that she was obliged to resume and got it finished ; she said, she had a number of children and was used to work ; he put his hand into his pocket as if to get out money to pay for it, and asked her could she change a five pound note ; being answered in the affirmative, he said he had two children at school, and asked had she any cheap umbrellas ; she said she could furnish him with a couple so low as sixteen

shillings ; that he said was too high, as they would only knock them about; he wanted something very cheap ; she said she could make up gingham ones for about nine shillings ; that he said would do and ordered two ; he then wanted an umbrella for his carriage, that was agreed for likewise ; he said he would take the silk umbrella with him, and when the others were finished, to send a bill and receipt to No. 200, Thames-street, and they would be paid for altogether ; this Mrs. Walsh refused, as she did not know him ; “ very true ;” he said, “ it was very right ; but he hoped she did not think he was going to do as the man who got the saw ?” No ; she rejoined, yet as she did not know him, she would send the umbrella directly to where he ordered it, which was immediately done.

The story of the Saw is as follows :—A man came into the shop, like one at work, in the name of a neighbour to borrow a saw, which he did with many more in the same street, but none of them ever saw their saws or the man again.

She hurried to get the umbrellas done, and sent them home ; both times they were received by a man in livery, who said he was Mr. Fitz——d’s servant ; they called frequently for the money but Mr. F. was never at home.

One time she went she saw Hughes in the ware-room ; he pulled up his breeches and asked her did she intend to breed a riot ; he knew nothing of the business. At last Mrs. Walsh took a young man with her, whom she desired might wait near the door. Mrs. D—s was in the ware-room, she very politely asked her in, “ pray walk into the counting-house,” likewise to sit down ; then asked her “ Did she know the people of the house, for she was a lady of great fortune that was just come from the country, and had considerable property in the house ?” Mrs. Walsh remarked “ it was a strange place to take lodgings

in after coming from the country ; that she believed they were a set of rogues, and she was one of them." Mrs. D—s desired her to get out for a damned bitch, shoved her into the street, and spit in her face two or three times in the most vulgar, common, and Billingsgate style.

Mrs. Walsh went to the lord-mayor for advice ; he told her to call them swindlers or what she pleased, and he would defend her. She then collected a number of creditors and went down to Thames-street.

A mob collected, and the issue was that they broke the windows. She found out three of the umbrellas were at Mr. Watson's, the pawnbroker. She got an order from the lord-mayor, and they were delivered up, but the silk one she lost.

They were as desperate in their finances here, as she was in George's-street ; but how can thieves, rogues, and swindlers, be otherwise ? They were indebted to one Jones, a butcher, in Trinity-lane, fifteen pounds ; sign of the Hatchet, public-house ; three pounds at one Baker's, who keeps a coal-shed. Henderson and Hughes ordered cheese at Mr. Broomfield's, No. 50, Little Eastcheap ; the order is entered on their books. Likewise bacon and butter was to come in from a Mr. Reynolds, but some person gave him the hard-word. They passed a bill, at two months date, at No. 20, Little Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, for fifteen pounds. They took in persons in the following places : a shoe-maker in Newgate-street ; a person the corner of Bedford-street ; No. 40, James-street : No. 3, Great Windmill-street ; No. 3, Russel-street, Covent-garden.

H——— had been in Ireland for linens, and a very large and massy box of stones, &c. came to the warehouse, Thames-street, manufactured in one of the other warehouses, to imitate Irish linens ; which it was said H——— had sent over ; and shortly after he appeared himself. He brought with him linens,

but it was four old shirts. He found the business in a very distracted state; which, together with his ill-success, rankled in his mind. She had sold the colours which he had got at Liverpool, at very reduced prices, to the colour-shops. If she threw the basin and tea-pot in one man's face, and kicked him out of doors, the tables were shortly to be turned upon her. He and she had some words, and one angry word begat another.

The cook went down stairs for something, he followed her, and when he had got her in the cellar, he locked her in. This was an act of precaution, lest in the acts of irritation, recapitulation of crimes might escape, and be reported. He went up stairs again, and put the candles out, and beat her soundly, calling her all the b——y wh——s he could think of. As fast as she lighted the candles, he knocked them out, and afterwards knocked her down on the fender. She was nearly black and blue all over, and he cut her on the forehead between the eyes (which mark she now bears); she bled from it most profusely until it ran down to her heels. At last, by some means she made her escape.

After a little while he let the maid out of the cellar, and sat down to drink grog for spite. She was afraid, as there was no other person in the house at the time, and as a Mr. and Mrs. C——ff——ce had went to the play, and had left a seven-shilling-piece to get ham and porter for supper, she thought the best scheme she could form, would be to remind him they would soon return, and "that she thought she had better go for them." He agreed: but when she got to the outside, she determined never more to enter.

Mrs. L———'s was the rallying point of the unfortunate; here she found her mistress just returned from Dr. Hodson's, of Giltspur-street, after having got a plaster for her face. She breathed nothing

but vengeance ; but was persuaded to go to bed, it being late. Mrs. L—— lay next to her, and the cook lay outside. Without stretching a point, we may say, they lay as thick as three in a bed. She had not been long there before she determined to rise, and nothing that could be said would prevent her.

The death of H—— was determined on ; she got one knife in her pocket, and a white-hafted knife in her hand, with the blade up her arm. Like an officer at the head of his regiment away she marched, swearing she would stab him to the heart. The cook was frightened, and wanted to get up to follow her. Mrs. L—— knew her temper better, held her down, saying you fool ye where you are, she will soon return.

In a short time she returned, but now she could not get in, and those inside were in no hurry to arise ; she rapped lustily. Mrs. L—— said, “ I told you how it would be ; she thought we would follow her.” They let her rap some time, before they would let her in. She said, “ the house was fastened, and she was afraid of the watchmen.”. Next day H—— came to Mrs. L—— to beat her again, but was prevented : and that night was arrested for one-hundred and twenty pounds, and put into Newgate ; afterwards he was removed to the Poultry-counter, and is now in Giltspur-street-counter.

Now she soothed Mrs. L—— to take her in again. She then put an execution into the house, and the goods were sold to Mr. Langdon, the broker, and she got the money.

The gang is now totally dispersed, for had they attempted to deal fair, though their beginning was foul, they might have got on, but the multitude of schemes and tricks they played at last, alarmed the whole city, and more particularly the incessant complaints to the lord-mayor. They got a load of wheat or flour, but an order from him soon removed it. They got a quantity of household furniture, which

was soon removed likewise : a broker in Moor-fields lost sixty pounds-worth. At last the lord-mayor issued an advertisement against them, which completed their destruction.

She is now single once more, and set about her trade with unabated ardour. She first practised upon Mrs. L———'s credulity, though she had so frequently done so before. She was frequently visited by a genteel-looking young man, who used to give her five guineas, three guineas, and two guineas, at a time. After he had payed one of these visits, her landlady said to her, " I wonder who that genteel young man can be ;" the other answered, "*Motha*, if you will swear never to disclose it, I will tell you." Curiosity in a female once agog, the oath is made. " Then *motha* he is a highwayman ;" the other stood astonished. Mrs. D——— told her some secrets of the most delicate nature, which the other did not believe, but was determined to find it out the very first opportunity. One shortly offered. He came one day when Mrs. D——— was absent ; after some little conversation he was advised to take care, for he little knew into what hands he had got. The young man was astonished at a stranger taking this liberty ; but one explanation begat another ; at last she said she knew his secret beyond the possibility of doubt, and would convince him. " Pray have you not buried, in such a place, a bottle ?" he was almost petrified at the question ; but she continued, " and in that bottle are there not a number of bank-notes ?"

He acknowledged the fact. The other said I have sworn to be silent, don't fear me, for depend upon it I never will betray you, but I admonish you to desist from the course you have begun, or it will end in your ruin. He departed, declaring he never more would trust woman.

She now determined to make her last push at her good *motha*, and to throw her completely off her

guard, said she was shortly to receive six-hundred pounds, and then she would see what she would do for her; she would lend her fifty pounds to set up a coal-shed in the under part of the house; and to prove that she was in earnest, she made her discharge a tenant out of a large front cellar, that was floored, and answered for a carpenter's shop; and another from a back cellar, to make way for these coals. One day, she said, "Motha, what have you for dinner?" the other answered, "nothing." "C—d d——n you —George—" my lady." "Clean your boots, make them shining;" "yes, my lady;" "you must go out with me;" "yes, my lady." Away they went to Fleet-market, and stopping at a butcher's shop, where hung a fillet of veal, "Vat is your veal a-pound?" "Eleven pence," (Turning to George), "that is good veal;" "yes, my lady." "Vell, send it to my house, No. —, Bell-savage-yard; my butcher has offended me; will deal with him no more. If you will use me well, I will deal with you." "Thank your ladyship." Away went the lady, and George following. The butcher thought he had caught a pigeon, for the veal was not worth more than eight-pence a-pound, but in fact he had caught a Tartar.

She, with her man George, made some more attempts, and returned home. "Vell, what have we got, cook?" "a fillet of veal and some bacon, a pig's head, and a couple of fowls." "Very well; now we want some grocery, but we can't get that—and—we want some gin." Cook was obliged to send a gown to pawn for that.

She swindled so successfully, that by Monday she had the money ready for the butcher. When he came with his bill, she invited him into the parlour, which she previously ordered might be made clean and tidy: it then appeared like the housekeeper's

room. She ordered him a glass of wine and some cake, that he might make his report to his master accordingly.

The next order was a leg of mutton and a piece of beef: they fared sumptuously this week. On Monday the bill arrived, as before: she told him her steward had neglected sending her money, but by the end of the week she should have it.

This week went on merrily, until the latter end, when some person inimical to her interest, met him, and told him he never would be paid. He, fool-like, did not take the warning, he left his meat; but he never brought any more. She swore she had some enemy about her, or she would have been able to have got much more. Mrs. L—— got credit for her at all the different places she used to deal at. This Mrs. D—— strained to the utmost, and got all she could herself in her name, and afterwards left her to pay them as she could.

One day, as she was leaning her head upon her hand, her cook was going to speak to her: she said, “when you see me thus, don’t speak to me, for I am thinking. I can do more in one hour (pointing to her prolific brain), than you can do in all your life.”

Be it remembered she was the means of ruining the B——’s. There was lace and hosiery pawned at one M——ws, in the Minories. The affidavit of Mr. G—— got the lace away. This infamous woman put lace into a servant’s box, with intent to ruin the girl’s character; and when the time suited her purpose, she had the box broke open, and it was found there.

The Thames-street party entangled one C——; We saw him in the Bench: he said she had not injured him, it was his partner. This partner, whose name was N——s, changed notes with them. N——’s

note got into the hands of one L——, who discounted it; and when it was due, and not honoured, he arrested N. for the payment. Mrs. D. appeared in court, and swore she had no connexion in the house, but was merely the housekeeper. She swore no value was got for the note, but before the trial, she tampered with both parties, and said, whoever gave her the most, should get the trial; for L—— had a piano-forte in his possession, which if he would give her, and a sum of money, she would get the trial for him; if not, she would get it for N——, which she did.

In her cups, the same night, she said, "I shall go to hell." N—— said, "never mind, you have done right." Mrs. L——'s son was witness; N—— desired him to go out; he answered, "no, I shan't, I should not have thought of your impudence; go you out, this is my mother's house, and I will remain in it."

We shall shortly consign Thames-street concern to oblivion, but we shall return to it. When she was taken from thence, Mrs. H——s, of beds, &c. memory, was there. The cook said to her, some few hours after, "we shall do yet, as we are to have two piano-forte's come in to-night; you are to keep house, while I, and Green the porter, take the men a couple of streets off, to treat them; lest, if they remain in this street they will hear our character: at ten o'clock they will be removed." Unfortunately for these birds of prey, no piano's arrived.

Mrs. D. gave Mrs. L. a power of attorney to sell the remainder of the Thames-street property. Here comes the opening of the fraudulent parcels: Clipstone the sheriff's officer, sold the stock in trade for forty-eight pounds, which was paid into the hands of Mr. Bishop, attorney, who paid it to Mrs. L.

When the stock came to be examined, there were

packets well tied up in cartridge paper, on which were written Broad-ribbed Stockings, Narrow-ribbed, &c. &c. and on the boxes, Linens—Long Shaws—Nankeens, &c. They excited such laughter, that the passers-by were called to, to have whole parcels, and some were left in the house, till opened by the present possessor. Mrs. H. paid her a visit at Mrs. L.'s to demand her beds. She spit in her face, and did all she could to provoke her to strike her, we suppose with intent to wipe off the debt, by prosecuting her for an assault. When she could not effect that, she desired her to go to Mr. B——p's, her attorney, though she knew she had received it herself. She went where directed to; he did not live there.

Some little time after she went again, being reduced to poverty by the wiles of one or another. She called her a swindling strumpet, and required her beds, &c. She again strove to irritate her to strike her; she spit in her face; at last she took courage to strike her first, a battle ensued; for though Mrs. H. wanted strength, she did not want the will. Victory declared on the side of the wrong; she got her adversary down, who finding herself likely to be vanquished, called out "murder" lustily. But fortune often declares the "race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong." In an instant she turned the tables, and the victor became vanquished; for in striving to stop her cries for help, her finger slipped into Mrs. H.'s mouth, which she taking the advantage of, bit most manfully. Assistance came, and they were parted: the blood flowed most plentifully.

Reader, you have seen a dog hopping on three legs after an affray; in this situation was the redoubted baroness: and, like Fribble in the farce, did she exhibit her "pretty little finger." Thus ended this battle, which like one in old times, called, "the

battle of the spurs", this may be termed, " the battle of the teeth and claws."

While she lodged with Mrs. L. this last time, she desired a son of her's, a rough sailor, to get her a quire of German paper; he must go where that sort was sold, as none other would do. He told her he would go for none, " for such a swindling bitch as her." Having fixed in her mind what to do, she desired George (of market-memory) to get it. A small paper was got, less than our letter-paper, as a substitute, the other not being to be had any where.

She had formerly got acquainted with Mr. K—, the money-lender, and though on all hands acknowledged to be an intelligent man himself, it seems he was not knowing enough for her. Seeing a book of letters in his bookcase, which formerly passed between the celebrated Perditta, &c. these letters she borrowed, and set her trusty man George to copy, to the number of twenty, and with a little alteration of the dramatis personæ, instead of a money-lender and a strumpet, it was now to be a strumpet and an emperor; and these letters she determined to turn to her account, by manufacturing some anecdotes, &c. of her own, and to have them printed, and pass them upon the British public, as a correspondence between her and the emperor; by which she said she could get three or four hundred pounds. To some of these letters she counterfeited the emperor's name.

She told this story in corroboration that she was one of his mistresses. She was walking with her husband in Vienna, when they accidentally met the emperor J——; he was so enraged with her that he stabbed her in the side, and she actually stripped herself to shew the mark, under the left breast, to Mrs. L.'s son. That she has such a mark is evident, but the circumstance of shewing it to a lad, proves her to be a most abandoned and indecent woman. But

the improbability of the story defeats itself, if there were no other proofs. An emperor of Germany writing to a mistress in English in his own country! If the emperor did understand English, is it to be supposed that his prostitute's education was such that she understood it? It is one of those stories wherein falsehood is easily detected; but, independent of the villainous intention to debase and defame the memory of a benevolent and humane prince, and degrade him below the infamy of a common assassin, in intending to murder an abandoned, a base, and an illiterate strumpet, which character she claims to be. So improbable a lie was never attempted on the common sense of common understandings before; but at the time that it betrays her impudence, it betrays her ignorance of every thing above the common level.

Reader, surely you have not forgot the advertisement that was published in the Public Ledger, of the sixteenth of October, one-thousand seven-hundred and ninety-six, which was copied from that paper at the beginning of these Anecdotes? Finding by throwing herself down in the street, and *stabbing herself*, did not *frighten* the merchant whom she designed to get a *sum of money* from, eight years after she attempts another scheme, *with the mark of that wound*. Finding she could get nothing from the living, she now attempts the dead. The fable says, "a living ass is better than a dead lion;" but here she reverses it, for as she could get nothing from the fears of a living merchant, she proposed getting something by tales on a dead emperor.

Having promised to do wonders for Mrs L., she now told her she was not fit to keep money, as any person telling her a piteous tale would be sure to get it, and she would leave herself bare: she therefore desired her to give it her to keep. Mrs. L. knowing there was some truth in the remark, in-

trusted the forty-eight pounds with Mrs. D. She enjoyed the benefit of the Rules, and went in and out of the Fleet as she pleased. She picked up an acquaintance with a merchant, who had the Rules : he introduced her to his wife, and she to another lady. She afterwards made use of both ladies' names to their dress-maker in Piccadilly, and their milliner in Dover street. The first she swindled out of a dress, value twelve guineas, and the milliner articles to the value of seventy pounds ; and in these very articles she presented herself before the court for liberation under the Insolvent Act.

With this dress and accompaniments she cut a brilliant appearance, and in one of her reconnoitering excursions, she picked up a gentleman, and made an engagement to meet him at the noted Mother ——— in Lisle-street, where by ringing a bell, a person appears that will bargain for a lady at all prices, from seven shillings upwards.

This dress was sent by her faithfull man George, but the gentleman disappointed her ; reflection cooled his appetite : but she determined not to be unemployed ; she plied like an active citizen, and returned in a day or two with a one-pound note, and in a few days afterwards she sent for her robes.

Her situation at Mrs. L.'s was fast drawing to a crisis ; she sent the blankets to the pawnbroker's, and said they were gone to the scowerers ; and her petticoats that were left for the washerwoman, she sent there also.

After depriving Mr. B——h of all his property, when she belonged to the Thames-street-firm, and pawning them by wholesale and depriving him of common necessities, she now arrested him, or laid a detainer against him, for three-hundred pounds : he did the same against her in return ; he had good grounds for so doing ; she had none (except for *work done* by her, as her shoes were marked inside with

his name). The warden called her in, as the security was not sufficient. One was Burton a sheriff's officer, who no doubt was paid for it; the other was H———n, her clerk, who wrote the check upon Berner's-street bank.

As soon as she was incarcerated, she caused to be written the following letter, and sent copies to all Mrs. L.'s creditors:

“ Monday Morning,

“ If you do not immediately proceed by law
“ against Mrs. L———, you will all lose your
“ money ; for she has sold her house and furniture,
“ and is going to live at Newcastle, where she was
“ born, &c.

J. BROWN.

“ N. B. She has got all the cash in her pocket she
“ has sold her house and goods for. Do not let
“ her know from whom the intelligence come.”

*To Mr. King, Undertaker,
Broadway, Ludgate-hill.*

When she laid the detainer against the young man whom she had brought to ruin, she swore in direct contradiction to the schedule which she returned to the commissioners; and Mr. B——h brought her own return against her on her claiming the benefit of the Insolvent Act. This oath went fatally against her, independent of the multitude of creditors that were ready to oppose her. She appeared in court in all the frontless audacity imaginable, led in by a boxer, called the Young Ruffian, with an impudence equal to his companion. She had two counsel, who exerted themselves, worthy a BETTER CAUSE. Finding all hopes of getting free at an end, she managed by her connection to get within the Rules. The first manœuvres she practised was, she had collected the names of those benevolent persons who had subscribed to public charities, and public institutions: and had a

son of a Mrs. Ad---n of Fleet-market, as clerk ; his business was to write circular letters, to the following purpose : “ That the writer is a distressed woman of distinction, who had married an Englishman, who has now deserted her in a foreign country ; that she is destitute of the means of returning home, &c.” She raised a considerable supply by this plan. The next was a school at No. 16, Fleet-lane, which she carried on some time. Next she got acquainted with a woman that keeps a coal-shed opposite Apothecaries’-hall ; who it seems became bail for her to the person who kept her in prison. The industrious man’s original bill against her was but nine pounds, sixteen shillings. He paid the *sixpences* for near two years ; and an attorney of the name of P—— bill’d him for seventy-eight pounds law expences.

Under such a regimen where there are attornies so unfeeling and unprincipled, no wonder the poor-houses are so crammed, and swindling is so universal. She next attempted to get a house, No. 45, in Kirby-street ; but her good name went before hand, and deprived her. However, she swindled a dress-maker in the street out of a dress, but failed getting a second. She at that time lodged with the coal-woman, and is now busily employed in her vocation in all parts of the town, and is joined by an advertising money-lender, with whom she was connected shortly after her arrival in this kingdom, who then lived in Oxford-street, afterwards in Poland-street.

This man, some time before her death, deserted the Blackheath swindler, Miss Robertson ; this shews the mutability of taste, to captivate. Her he gave twelve guineas for a set of teeth, and used to issue from the Fleet, and have three or four lodgings, for the better carrying on his business ; and when he made a successful *pounce*, went into the Fleet to

escape detection, and to spend it in festivity with her.

As he has taken up with this IMP again, it is necessary a few of his tricks should be published. He had a place in the stamp office in Ireland, and so ingenious was he, that he had the dyes counterfeited, and had a press in his lodgings: he was so successful that he was nick-named, "Gold in all pockets." He was found out, made his escape to England, was caught, taken to Bow-street—hand-cuffed, sent back and put upon his trial—escaped through an informality in the proceedings; therefore, was an *unconvicted felon*—arrived again in England.

The next dextrous affair that gave him a rise, was, he lived with Madam P——, who kept an accommodation house, a fruit and cake-shop. He met a countryman of the name of B—n, who had just returned from France. Some emigrants had entrusted this scoundrel with their money to conduct them to London, and buy necessaries for them on the road; he escaped with three hundred and eighty louis.

He told this money-lender of it; who, in consequence, invited him to dine with him at this woman's house, where he introduced to him the heroine of these sheets: previous to dinner time he borrowed ten pounds from another countryman, which he gave to a French black-legs of the name of D—lez, whom he reported to this fellow to be as rich as Cræsus.

After introduction, dinner, and the bottle being freely circulated, it was suggested to introduce cards, and as B—n did not understand them, they proposed cutting black or red for a pound. The money-lender took him out and settled it with him, that they would be in halves, which was reluctantly agreed to. The ten-pound note was put at the front of a number of

counterfeit ones, to excite this man who was to be the dupe.

The money-lender said he would ensure success, as every time the cards came to him, he would manage to shew him the bottom, therefore, he could safely guess which was black, and which was red, as there was two packs, where each colour was selected. They soon won of D——lez ten pounds; he swore he would cut for ten thousand pounds, he would not play for such trifles: the money-lender took the dupe out of the room, and it was agreed they should cut for eight hundred pounds. But he took care upon his return into the room, to slip D——lez a king of diamonds, larger than the rest. After the preliminaries were settled, the money-lender called for the king of diamonds; all was suspense; the king of diamonds was cut. The death-like calm which took place but a moment before, was now succeeded by tempest and uproar. The money lender out Heroded Herod in vociferation. Madam P—— was not hindmost; her hair bestrewed the floor in abundance. Ophelia was as far outstripped by her as mad Lear was by the money-lender: the dupe had no part to act; he was petrified by his own folly, as by the excess of their grief; and instead of thinking of his loss, was busily employed to appease the ladies.

This rant and roar was only to get the cards out of the way before his reason returned; they were torn piece-meal and thrown into the fire. He carried the dupe with him, and as they sallied out a watchman fell in their way; the money-lender presently shivered his lanthorn to pieces: the guardian of the night sprung his rattle, and in an instant our heroes were surrounded and taken to the watch-house. A guinea slyly slipped into their hand, effected the money-lender's escape, while the dupe was safely kept in durance. He returned to the place of rendez-

vous in a hurry, lest D—— might decamp with the booty. Madam P—— demanded a third, as she asserted; she played a most difficult and distressing part.

The next affair of notoriety, was, one of the gang cast his eyes upon a female that had some money. The fellow pretended he had a very rich uncle, to whom he was heir. The friends of the lady had no objection, provided the old man's consent could be had. Our money-lender being a mimic, he undertook the personification: in all the paraphernalia of age and dotage, he was laid out, and he acted the part to admiration: the friends were perfectly satisfied. Somehow it happened that one of them called at an unexpected moment, and asked to see Mr. N——; the servant maid not being in the secret, said he was not at home, "pray how long has he been out," he rejoined; "he has been out since morning, but would be at home at four o'clock." This was enough; he determined to watch the house, till such time as he returned, to be satisfied as to his man, which being done, away he ran to Bow-street.

Next day our money-lender was laid out as before, in expectation of another visit from the lady's friends, when his unlucky stars would have it, they were accompanied with the Bow-street officers, and rudely hurried away as he was, bolstered and lapped up in flannels. Conceive what a scene! a conscious villain taken in his own trap, the scorn and contempt of all around him.

The magistrates after hearing the matter, declared (however sorry they were) they could not punish him, as no harm was done. We declare with deference that he should have been sent to the house of correction to hard labour, as a rogue and vagabond, and every person would have applauded, "a vigour

beyond the law." He now says, he is not the N—— that was tried in Dublin, but we presume the person whom he brought the action against, for pulling his nose in Westminster-hall, and from whom he recovered a shilling damages, is the best judge.

It is said he has a number of persons in constant pay, who will swear to any thing he dictates; to their horrible precaution he owes his safety so long. Bills of dubious origin may be traced to this connexion; and we have no doubt but inoffensive men have been corrupted, actuated, and at last betrayed. Several of their depraving are now in the different prisons, and will ultimately be brought to an untimely end, as one of the name of W——, lately asserted before creditable witnesses, that he was.

Every means possible has been taken to hinder these Anecdotes from being published; we have been insulted by boxers and bullies; let them beware. We have too much regard for the lawful, to pay any regard to the lawless; the truth by which we are impelled, and the end we have in view, will, if we fail in fully guarding the industrious, actuate our legislators to make those laws that are absolutely necessary to check the progress of swindling. We call upon the guardians of the laws to prescribe some remedy: our rude forefathers knew no such term; their laws were brief and simple; it is the nice distinctions which lawyers have created that has given birth to this crime, and lawyers only are capable of destroying it. Branding on the cheek would be one effectual means as after one conviction, they would carry their own advertisement.

We have demonstrated that from this money-lender and this woman's connexion, the Blackheath swindling business originated. This fellow has done more mischief than has come to light. Pretending

to discount bills to the unfortunate, at one-hundred and fifty per cent. is one of his schemes : this business deserves looking too ; for often do these people decamp with the whole. It is in its best form intolerable : the money of the country that lies in the public offices, would be turned to wonderful account both to the governor and governed. In the present state of things swindling is an alarming evil.

This infernal machine wrote to Lord Cloncurry when in the Tower, with intent to get money from him, but her letter was treated with contempt. She likewise wrote to the Duke of Portland, no doubt pretending to make vast discoveries of “ plots and rumours of plots ;” and we will venture to say there are few of the nobility who have not been applied to in some form ; we know she attempted Lord Moira.

What astonishes us is, under a government so vigilant as ours, where taxes are so multiplied upon all ranks, and where all must use the utmost industry to keep themselves from prison, where an ambassador resides, the representative of a potent prince, who knows the artifice this woman and her companion practiced in Vienna, should not have had some consultation with our ministers to prevent the repetition of such crimes, and that she should be permitted to continue them so long with impunity.

If government thinks there is matter in these Anecdotes that will criminally convict, we proffer our hearty concurrence to rid the country of this infernal machine.

We forbear saying what we could respecting the marshall of the King's Bench in granting day-rules. Two pounds is a dreadful levy on the unfortunate ; yet we know it falls very little short of it.——The utility of the Society for the protection of trade against swindlers and cheats, is clear, and we would

recommend an extension of their powers; it would take a weight off the shoulders of government, assist the magistracy, and do honour to the character of the nation.

She has been *three* times in the Fleet; *three* times in the King's Bench, and *three* times in Newgate; once in Cold-Bath-Fields; and once in Giltspur-street Compter; and she made a boast, that she had been arrested *one hundred and fifty times!*

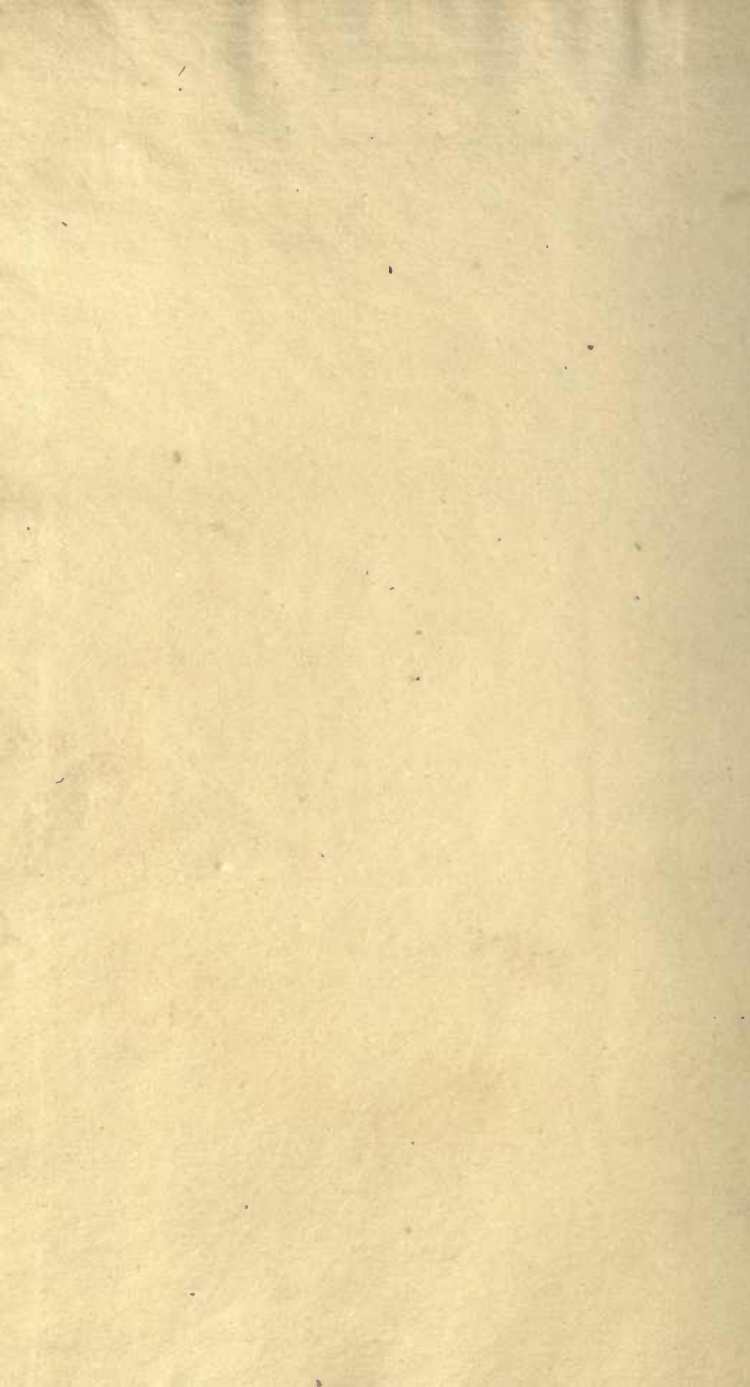
THE END,

There is a great deal of talk about the importance of the study of the history of the United States, but it is not until we have a clear understanding of the principles of the Constitution that we can begin to appreciate the significance of the events of our country's past.

and the music a book, that has been
once in Col. Bath's hands; and also in Col. Bath's
in the King's Bench, and also in the
and has been three times in the King's Bench; and also

1857





UC SOUTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY FACILITY



A 000 097 890 8

